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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Nuclear talks for USSR and U.S.

Mr. Edmund Muskie, the U.S. Secretary of State, said yesterday that the U.S. and the Soviet Union had reached an understanding on holding preliminary negotiations to limit each other's nuclear forces in Enrope.

Mr. Muskie, who had just completed a 3½-hour meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, said o formal announcement would be made later. Aides had predicted that preliminary talks would open next month in Geneva.

Air fares cut

British Airways will cut some internal air fares by up to 50 per cent from November 1, to try to encourage winter travel. New BA chairman, Back Page; Probtems, Page 6

Berlin trains back

Freight troins resumed running between West Berlin and West Germany after striking West Berlin employees of East German railways won rights for trade union elections.

Ferry to close

P and O Ferries decided to close its London-Ostend hydrofoil service after seven months in operation. Seajet's Brighton-Dieppe service closed last month.

Westward warned

Westward Television has been warned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, after recent Boardroom disputes, that its commerciol television franchise is in danger. Back Page

Jail follows fire

London landlord Savvas Haggi-Pieri, who wanted his tenants to leave, was jailed for two years for manslaughter after a fire started in which three of them died.

Census challenge

Detroit city won a lawsuit challenging the accuracy of this year's U.S. census, which could affect its political representation and the amount of its federal aid: Page 3

Korean reform

South Korean President Cbun Doo-Hwan plans a new constitution abolisbing the present politicol porties, Government sources soid.

Pickets sentenced

Two "flying pickets" were jailed for six months ot Shrewsbury Crown Court after causing damage of more than £5,000 to lorries during the steel strike in February.

Afghans sacked

Kabul mayor Assadullah Payom and Afghanistan's deputy Industries Minister, Gbulam Mohammad Rahimi, have lost their posts in a purge of the ruling People's Democratic Party.

Home and away

Local newspapers claimed a world record for the 41 per cent absenteeism recorded at Alfa Romeo's Naples car plant. Officials said staff stayed home to watch football on television.

Briefly . . .

Alaska abolished state income tax becanse of booming oil revenue.

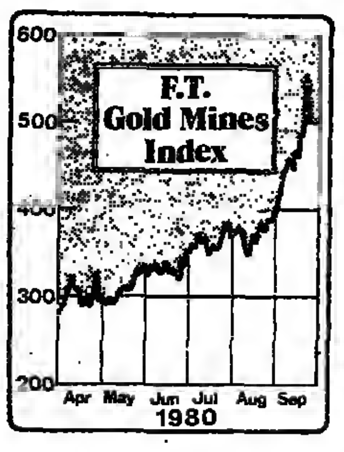
Heart transplant potient Ewan McPhee, 23, died in Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, seven months after his operation.

Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham, 31, died.

BUSINESS

Equities up 1.1; Golds off 17

● EQUITIES steadied despite market nervousness about Iran/Iraq developments, and the FT 30-share index regained 1.1 to 484.4. GOLDS fell on fresh



profit-taking, the Gold Mines index closing 17.0 down at 500.0. Page 32

● GILTS: the Government Securities index rose 0.03 to 70.24. Page 32

● GOLD sbed $13 in London to close at $695.5. Page 28

● STERLING fell five points to $2.3990. Its trade-weighted index was 76.1 (76.3). Poge 28

● DOLLAR rallied late to close at DM 1.7980 (DM 1.7945) and SwFr 1.6440 (SwFr 1.6430). Its index eased slightly to 83.8 (83.9). Page 28

● WALL STREET was off 0.94 at 963.82 shortly before the close. Page 30

● GOVERNMENT is set to announce the first £400m instalment of a cash injection for the British Steel Corporation, as concern for nationalised industries grows omong Ministers. Back Page; Crisis in industry, Page 18

● CEILING of 10 per cent in nationalised industry price rises for the next year wos urged by the State-financed National Consumer Council. Page 8

● URGENT study into the future of the Royal Ordnance Factories has been launched; the introduction of private capital into the orgooisotion is being considered. Page 9

● NATIONAL Enterprise Board is expected to be left with a beavy loss on Alfred Herbert, its mocbine tool subsidiary wbich effectively collopsed three months ago. Back Page

● VAUXHALL's Chevette car, made at Ellesmere Port, is to go on sale in West Germany next month. About 5,000 vehicles will be sbipped there thia year.

● POLISH economy lost a further Zl 25bn (£34 .m) through strikes and stoppages in September, on top of August's Zl 36bn, the party newspaper Trybuna Ludu says. Back Page; Pravda attack, Page 2

● BRITAIN is to oppose any radical changes in the structure of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank when members meet in Bermuda next week. Page 3

COMPANIES

● VICKERS, wbich merged with Rolls-Royce Motors in August, increased first-half pre-tax profits to £12.62m (£6.39m), including £8.17m final interest compensation for its British Aircraft Corporation holding. Rolls-Royce profits for the 24 weeks to June 14 fell to £1.24m (£4.58m). Page 20 and Lex, Back Page

● DUNLOP Holdings onnounce a fall in first-balf taxable profits from £18m to £15m, as finance charges rose to £25m (£21m). Page 20 and Lex, Back Page

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES			Brooks Watson	19	− 3
Treas. 9¾pc 1983	£92⅞	+ ¼	Brown and Jackson	80	− 40
APV	215	+ 12	Derby Trust Cap.	273	− 9
Amalgamated Metal	235	+ 9	Eurotherm	286	− 8
BL	23	+ 3	Farnell Elec.	338	− 7
Beecham	157	+ 4	GKN	180	− 7
Burco Dean	21	+ 5	Hoskins and Horton	68	− 10
Dunlop	82	+ 3	London Brick	72	− 4
Haden Carrier	146	+ 7	Office & Electronic	313	− 18
House of Fraser	132	+ 4	Wilkinson Warbrtn.	47	− 3
MFI	62	+ 7	Barlow Hldgs.	96	− 4
Morrison (Wm.)	170	+ 7	East Driefontein	£14	− 1¼
Norvic Secs.	9	+ 2	Gold Mn. Kalgoorlie	545	− 30
Bank Org.	160	+ 14	Impala Plotinum	545	− 10
Burmah Oil	189	+ 9	Minorco	640	− 20
Clyde Petroleum	580	+ 40	North Kalgurli	107	− 6
KCA	141	+ 7	Poseidon	345	− 12
Ultromar	443	+ 16	Samantba	88	− 10
Mount Carrington	68	+ 6	Southvaal	£17⅞	− 1
FALLS			West Driefonteio	£46	− 2½
Brixton Estate	132	− 4	Western Deep	£30	− 1⅝

Tehran experiences the fear of war as sirens sound a practice alert

A resident in Tehran yesterday sent this eyewitness description of the capital mobilising for war:

Tehran tonight experienced the fear of war for the first time in its history. Just before 8 pm the sirens sounded for the first time while an announcer on Tehron radio told listeners: "There is about to be an Iraqi air raid. This is serious, very serious. Citizens should protect themselves as best they con."

The western part of the city exploded witb the sound of heavy anti-aircraft fire and tbe sky was lit up by streams of tracer bullets. People rushed on to their roofs shouting: "God is great." In other parts screaming could be heard.

It was only after the firing died down and the panic subsided thot it oppeared that wbat the city had experienced was a test of the air raid warning system against whot tbe government fears may well happen soon if the war against Iraq is prolonged.

As the public begins to take the war seriously, so its mood is changing. Considerable frustrotion exists at the slow rate with which officials release newa of the fighting. Many people are once again listening to the BBC and other foreign radio stations.

The campaign against rumour-mongering has got under way, with 20 people arrested so far in Tebran. Most of these are taxi drivers and one was arrested by o passenger for "praising tbe Shah and Bakhtiar and for sayiog that there were food sbortages."

Tbe mobilisatioo of the People's Army—the Mostazafin Militia—has begun. One of its leaders said yesterday that "several hundred have already been sent to the front following a meeting of units from each of the mosques in Tehran on Wednesday night." In the holy city of Qom, the famous theological centre, Hosieh Elmieh is organising the despatch of clergy to the front.

In the growing mood of national unity many old quarrels are being forgotten. The normally stridently Islamic daily poper Etola'at yesterday carried on its front page a statement from the Marxist Fedayeen Khalq guerrillo group. The statement appealed to all the group's supporters, who number many thousands among the students, to rally to "defend the revolution and independence of the country in the face of attacks from the Iraqi fascist regime. . . ."

A large crowd gathered on Wednesday when revolutionary guards tried to pull down a street bookstore of the Fedayeen. "Leave tbem alone." "You should be using that gun against the Iraqis rather than us," were some of the taunts thrown at the guards who withdrew after some shooting in the air.

The need for the unity of all forces supporting the revolution was the main point made by each member of tbe joint staff when they spoke to the Press yesterday. General Fallahi, acting chief of staff, said this co-operation was taking place under bis command.

He admitted that Iran foced "difficulties in repair and maintenance unlike the Iraqis. . . ." However, he thought that if "this war goes on and becomea more widespread, then I believe we will win. The Iraqis may score some temporary gains but eventoally we will be victorious."

On Wednesday night, for the first time since the war of words with Iraq turned into a sbooting war, the people of Tehran were forced to face the foct that they were at war. "Turn off your lights, sister. There's a war on," shouted men from the revolutionary committees as they toured the streets at dusk searching out the many recalcitrant homea.

They need not have bothered for within an hour, at 8 pm, the electrical power supply for the wbole city was switched off. Cars

Continned on Back Page

U.S. in talks on joint force

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON AND JAMES BUXTON IN LONDON

THE U.S. is discussing with its major European allies and with friendly Gulf countries the possibility of forming a joint naval force wbich could move into action should Iran blockade the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf. Such a force would almost certainly not move into action however, unless invited by at least one Arab State.

Preliminary talks have taken place at the UN in New York where many countries' Foreign Ministers are gathered for the General Assembly. The U.S. wants to keep a very low profile following President Carter's pledge of "strict neutrality" in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

U.S. officials said yesterday they hoped thot Britain, France and West Germaoy would all take the diplomatic lead in trying to lift any blockade; olthough France alone has warships stationed in the Indian Ocean.

Yesterday the Sultanate of Oman said that shipping in the Strait of Hormuz was flowing normally and had not been interrupted. The shipping lanes through the Strait pass through Omani territorial waters and the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had "full authority and cootrol over the passage."

The Omani statement followed earlier reports that shipping was building up in the Gulf of Oman outside the Strait. But these were discounted by Lloyd's of London and shipping agents in the Gulf. Ironian warships have been questioning by radio crews of cargo ships coming into the Gulf in an attempt to stop them reaching Iraqi ports. But no horassment has so far been reported.

In Paris, Mr. Toriq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, gave an undertaking that Iroq would do everything in its power to ensure free passage of internotional shipping through the Strait.

Speaking after talks with President Giscard d'Estaing, he stressed that Iraq would fulfil its obligations as an oil supplier to Western countries. But according to French officials he did not ask the French President for more orms, although France is Iraq's second largest arms supplier, after the Soviet Union.

While the Iranian navy is considered by the U.S. to be in no shape to operate o complete blockade of the Strait, it could threaten to sink ships or it could lay mines, which would strongly discourage shipping from using the Strait and send insurance rates soaring.

In sucb an event, the Carter Administration apparently has no intention of intervening to protect oil tanker routes tbrougb the Strait, unless invited to do so by one or more Arab States in the area.

Sucb an invitation could come from Oman, which though responsible for guordiog the Strait, has emphasised in the past that it does not have the capacity to do so in a dire emergency.

Tbe U.S. has a small naval force based at Bahrain in the Gulf and a larger group of 26 ships led by two aircraft carriers said in Wasbington to be in the northern reoches of the Arabian Sea off the Oman coast.

Tbe U.S. has pnt none of the forces which would make up its Rapid Deployment Force on alert because of the war, partly because it is anxious to demonstrate its neutrality and partly because the closure of the Strait of Hormuz would he a naval problem requiring a naval solutioo. The bulk of the force exists only on paper as yet, and will be built up only over the next five years.

Oman has on agreement with the U.S. allowing American use of certain port and airbase facilities in an emergency. This is part of a network of facilities tbe U.S. is building up in the region

Details of the war and other developments, Page 4

● U.S., its European allies and some Gulf nations may form a joint naval force to deal with any attempt to close the Strait of Hormuz. They would probably only oct if invited.

● Iranian warships have questioned by radio cargo ship crews destined for Iraq, but without harrasment. The Strait of Hormuz remained open. Lloyds of London and Gulf shipping agents discounted reports of shipping building up outside the Strait.

● Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister said in Paris Iraq would do all in its power to keep the Strait open.

● Iraq concentrated its attacks on Iranian air force and military boses. It claimed to have captured Khorramshahr port and further north to hove pushed 20 miles into Iran. Iran denied the loss of Khorramshahr.

● Iran launched air raids over a wide area of Iraq, including Baghdad and numerous oil installations.

● Iran said oil ontput had dropped to 500,000 barrels a day from 1.7m before the fighting.

● Saudi Arabia and other Arab states moved towards open support for Iraq.

Iraq concentrates on military targets

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

IRAQ concentrated its attacks on Ironian airforce and military bases yesterdoy, opparently stung by the damage that has been inflicted on its own oil and petrocbemicol facilities.

With its oil terminals on the Gulf out of action, Bogbdad informed Lebanon that it wos reopening its pipeline to Tripoli. It has been sbut for four years. Iraq olso bos pipelines to the Mediterranean through Syrio and Turkey.

Sorties of Iranian Pbantom fihter-bombers struck soon after dawn at targets througbout Iroq, ranging from Basra on the Shott ol-Arab estuary, through Bagbdad ond up to a refinery at Ayn Zolah only 15 miles from the Syrian border. Oil installations at Kirkuk and Mosul were olso bombed.

Saudi Arobia and other Arab states seemed to be swinging towards open support for Iraq yesterday. The Iraqi news agency said King Khalid of Saudi Arabia had promised President Saddam Hussein thot his country would stand by Iraq "in its pan-Arab battle with the Persions, the enenies of the Arab nation."

Jordan, Morocco, Kuwoit and the two Yemens bave already bocked Iraq. The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed ol-Saboh, also talked to Mr. Saddam Hussein yesterday and suggested an emergency meeting of Arab and Islamic foreign ministers.

In Poris, Mr. Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, said after talks with President Giscord d'Estaing that Bagbdad was ready for peace talks, but first Iran hod to accept territorial and other conditions. He refused to moke any precise suggestions for cnding the fighting.

The one mojor success claimed by Iraq yesterday was tbe capture of Khorramshahr, the cargo port and naval hase

Iran's oil output has dropped to about 500,000 horrels a doy from the 1.7m before the fighting, a spokesman for the oil ministry soid in Tehran. The main Ahwaz and Marun fields in Khuzeslan province were still operoting, hut only for refineries other than Abadan which bod been shut down.

Iraq said its navy had driven off an Iranian gunboat attack on the oil terminal at Khor Abdulla. Three Iranian frigates and two gunboats were claimed to have been sunk.

Weighell loses committee post

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

MR. SID WEIGHELL, the general secretary of the National Union of Railwoymen, was voted out of the chairmanship of the TUC's tronsport industries committee, in retoilation, he believes, for his support for Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretory of the Electrical ond Plumbing Trades Union.

Mr. Weigbell said yesterdoy: "I was orguing for the right of everybody to express their views without fear or favour. If we abandon that, we migbt as well pack up as a movement. I don't know where this will end."

Mr. Chapple described the removal of Mr. Weigbell as chairman as "a further nauseoting piece of bebOviour by bloody foolish people. It's a foolhardy act by a bloody-minded bunch of bureaucrats."

Tbe removal of Mr. Weighell, and thot of himself from the finaoce and geoeral purposes committee, resulted from "an organised effort."

He questioned the position of Mr. Tom Jacksoo, general secretary of the Union of Communications Workers, who also supported Mr. Chapple ot the general council meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Jockson is chairman of the TUC's internotionol committee.

Mr. Jackson said that Mr. Weighell's removal as chairman wos "an outrage."

"If this is going to be the way in whicb they carry on, then they must expect those who don't agree with them to organise. This is no way to run the TUC," he declared.

Mr. Weigbell has been replaced as chairman by Mr. Larry Smith, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers Union. Mr. Smith joined the general council of the TUC this year, and was not present at the committee meeting which removed Mr. Weigbell yesterday by 12 votes to seven.

It is believed that some five or six TGWU officials on the committee voted against Mr. Weigbell, together with Mr. Ray Buckton, choirman of the troin drivers' union ASLEF.

Mr. Chapple worned the TUC of almost certain legal action against it if the electricions' union were suspended from its membership becouse of its stand on the Isle of Grain dispute.

Some TUC leoders yesterday sought to divert attention from the political aspects of Mr. Weigbell's removal from the choirmanship and to draw attention instead to bis controversial views on rationalisation in tbe transport industry.

Mr. Weighell last month failed, for instance, to gain the support of Mr. Buckton, for the NUR's draft proposals on a productivity claim, to be put to British Rail, in exchange for an efficiency agreement.

At a conference on the Employment Act, yesterday, Mr. Chopple made some harbed comments about the TUC and its leadership.

The "winter of discontent," the econnmic climate and the lack of leadership bad weakened the movement and "shattered our self-confidence," he said.

The TUC was "split and directiooless" and its case against the Employment Act had been damaged by its failure to condemn actions at the Isle of Grain and at Hodfields during the steel strike.

There was considerable evidence that, in general, the union leaderships' public declarations were often not supported by the members.

£ in New York

—	Sept. 24	previous
Spot	$2.4010-30	$2.4015-4025
1 month	1.13-1.06 dis	1.06-1.01 dis.
3 months	2.10-2.05 dis	2.07-3.02 dis.
12 months	3.15-3.00 dis	3.15-3.00 dis.

Big offshore expansion forecast

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

INVESTMENT by the oil and gas industry offsbore Britain is expected to be about £60bn during the next 15 years, Mr. John Raisman, chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, said yesterday.

The programme should boost employment prospects — the number of associated jobs could double to 70,000 to 80,000 — and present a major challenge for UK industry, he told a Highlands and Islands Development Board conference at Aviemore.

The country bad sufficient oil resources to remain self-sufficient beyond the year 2000. But to achieve this the oil industry would have to step up its explorotion and development activity.

Future expenditure could be three times the £20bn spent in the North Sea so far. Some £40bn, in 1980 money, would be needed to develop new fields and to complete work on the existing 25 commercial discoveries. Operational and maintenance costs looked like being over £15bn. To find the necessary oil would require the drilling of about 800 exploration wells, at about £5m each. Further investment would be required for associated facilities such as chemical plants, gos treatment centres, storage tanks and pipelines.

All this work would require a big increase in the lobour force.

Oil companies, platform construction yards and contractors directly under oil industry supervision today employed 35,000 people on North Sea operations. Of these 12,000 were involved in operoting and mointenance work. By 1995 the total figure could have doubled to 70,000 to 80,000 jobs. In additioo there would be employment opportunities in supportive industries such oa hotels, laundries, grocery provisions, house building and sectors involved in the design and manufacturing of equipment such as pumps, generators and instruments needed for oil development and production.

"I am not describing a period of industrial activity which would be short-lived," said Mr. Raisman. "Nor are the opportunities for Britisb industry confined to this country alone." Expertise, skills and equipment would also be needed overseas where the opportunities for oil-related work could result in controcts worth many times the

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EUROPEAN NEWS

IG Metall muffles split over wage claim tactics

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

IG METALL, West Germany's most powerful trade union, yesterday ended its annual conference, having carefully muffled a serious split over negotiating tactics in the coming winter wage round.

The row within the union in many ways highlights the conflicts building up in the German trade union movement.

In the past fortnight two other influential trade unions—IG Chemie, the chemical workers union, and HBU, the bank and insurance workers union—have seen an almost unbridgeable gulf develop between the union leadership and the grass roots membership.

The nub of the criticism is that the often-ageing leadership of these unions has centralised power in its hands, that the leadership consults only rarely with its regional outposts, and that this in turn has led to a conciliatory attitude towards employers.

The IG Metall dispute centres on the "pilot region" negotiating tactic. This means that the union is more or less obliged to follow the first acceptable wage settlement reached between a regional union bargaining committee and the employers. This year, after a certain amount of pressure from the central leadership, one region settled at the surprisingly low figure of a 6-7 per cent wage increase.

As a result, most of the other of the union's regions had to follow suit, although they were eager and able to hold out for a considerably higher wage increase, especially given the low 4-5 per cent settlements over the previous two years.

During the IG Metall conference *Herr Fritz* Steinkuebler, head of the Baden Wuerttemberg region, sharply criticised the central leadership on this score and pressed for more independence in wage negotiations.

The attack was parried by the union leaders who were this week re-elected to their positions. But Herr Eugen Loderer, chairman of IG Metall, made it clear that this was going to be his last term of office. This statement has encouraged the regional union chiefs to believe that they will be able to wrest more power in the coming years.

The power struggle is important because it has wide-ranging implications for the future of the German economy. IG Metall's wage settlements have traditionally been followed by every other German union.

This means that as long as the IG Metall leadership is moderate and in tune with Government wishes, wage claims can be kept within manageable limits. *More* regional autonomy in negotiating could set off a wage explosion, with serious implications for inflation.

W. German economic slowdown continues, says IFO survey

BY JONATHAN CARR IN BONN

FURTHER evidence of slowdown in the growth of the West German economy emerges from the latest survey of business opinion published today by the IFO economic institute of Munich.

Even allowing for the fact that the survey covers the summer holiday month of August, when some economic slowdown is normal, the signs of an across-the-board worsening of the business climate are unmistakable.

Manufacturing industry reported a slower intake of orders and fewer orders-in-hand despite production cuts in earlier months, particularly in the mechanical engineering branch.

In the building sector, production was below the average of the previous three months, although orders-in-hand are still sufficient for three months' work, a slight increase on the figure a year earlier.

Hopes in the wholesale trade that were raised by a 4 per cent sales increase (in nominal terms) in July as against a year earlier have not been met. The August sales result was about 7 per cent in real terms below that of August, 1979.

It is a similar tale in the retail sector, with turnover 8 per cent down in real terms at an annual rate.

Despite the fall, it is still likely that the Government's hope of real economic growth this year of 2.5 per cent will be fulfilled. The economic upturn in the first half was a little stronger than expected, and the downturn in the second a little faster than feared.

The Government view, also broadly shared by IFO, is that there are fair prospects that the economy will be through the trough and starting to grow steadily again in the course of 1981.

The condition is that no major, unforeseen international crisis—for example, a cut in oil supplies—emerges to upset the trend. The current IFO survey was finished well before the Iran-Iraq conflict began.

Ireland to consider gas link to Belfast

By Stewart Dalby in Dublin

THE Irish Government has agreed to enlarge its feasibility study on a gas pipeline from Cork to Dublin to include a Dublin-Belfast link as well.

Ireland has one major gas field off Kinsale Head in Co. Cork. In full production this field could supply 125m cubic feet of gas a day, equivalent to perhaps 15 per cent of Ireland's energy needs by the mid 1980s.

The main company supplying Dublin with "town gas" is ailing, and Mr. George Colley, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, has long hinted that Dublin's needs could be met from the Kinsale field.

A large proportion of Northern Ireland's needs could also be met if it proves politically possible to have a gas pipeline.

Italy's engineering and metal workers go on strike

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

SOME 1.5m engineering and metal workers went on strike throughout Italy yesterday to protest at the plans of the Fiat car group, Italy's largest private concern, to make 14,469 workers *redundant as it cuts back its* production over the next 18 months.

Mass rallies took place in Fiat's home city of Turin, and in Naples, where Sig. Pio Galli, one of the metalworkers' national leaders, warned that employees would take over Fiat's plants if no solution is found.

At present the main hopes of a compromise rest with Sig. Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, who has seen delegations from both sides in the past 48 hours. But Sig. Cesare Annibaldi, Fiat's personnel director, confirmed yesterday that the gap between them remained as wide as ever.

The next stoppage planned is a four-hour general strike on October 2, but union leaders have warned that this could be enlarged and brought forward should no progress be forthcoming. The distinctly wobbly coalition administration of Christian Democrats, Republicans and Socialists is meanwhile pressing hard for redundancies to be avoided.

● The Italian car industry, whose productivity is already woefully low, this week appears to have beaten even its own worst records.

The Alfa Sud subsidiary of the State-owned Alfa Romeo car manufacturer reported that on Wednesday absenteeism at its Pomigliano d'Arco works near Naples reached an unprecedented 41 per cent. This is double normal levels of around 20 per cent, which are already reckoned to be unsurpassed

Turgut Ozal: leaves for Washington today.

Turkey debt meetings 'next week'

By Metin Munir and David Tonge in Ankara

TURKEY'S new military Government is to go ahead next week with pre-coup plans to ask Western banks to ease the terms under which the country was lent $3bn last year.

Requests for rescheduling of the debt will be put to the banks by Mr. Turgut Ozal, deputy Prime Minister under the new Government and the architect of the economic stabilisation measures introduced by the ousted Government of Mr. Suleyman Demirel. He visits Washington next week for the annual International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings.

Mr. Ozal's intentions provide further confirmation that Turkey's generals are to continue the economic policies of the Government they overthrew. Before the coup put an end to increasing extremist violence and crippling strikes in Turkey's metal and textile industries, it was feared that Western bankers would strongly resist Turkish requests for rescheduling.

Mr. Ozal, speaking in his first interview since the announcement of the new Cabinet last Sunday, said that Turkey would maintain the austere economic policies at home, launched in January. He warned, however, that it would take up to five years to ensure the complete recovery of the Turkish economy.

Mr. Ozal argued that the economic situation had already improved:

—The inflation rate had fallen from an annual rate of over 100 per cent to 2 per cent per month, although seasonal factors could lead to a slight increase in the near future.

—Shortages of goods such as cooking oil, fuel oil, cement, iron and steel had been overcome.

—The freeing of most interest rates had led to a surge in deposits with the banking system.

— Strikes which were crippling the metal working and textile sectors had ended.

John Wyles assesses the row over the European Community budget

An awkward moment in Brussels

THE EUROPEAN Community can increasingly be caught in moments of embarrassing awkwardness. So bad, in fact, was the spectacle presented by the Council of Ministers' budget meeting which finished at 6 am on Wednesday morning, that the European Commission was provoked into unusually outraged complaint.

Behind the Commission's dissociation from the draft budget adopted by the European Community's Finance Ministers lay a somewhat belated sense that *the Community must stop saying* one thing and doing another. Heads of Government and their Treasury Ministers over the past 18 months have acknowledged the need to reduce agriculture's share of the Community budget, yet the budget ministers undid most of the Commission's attempts to change the spending balance.

The inevitable impression is of a Community which wants to do better, but not yet, and of a Community which can progress only from one crisis to another. Thus the row over the British budget rebate precipitated a commitment to try to restructure the budget. But this effort may really materialise only when the Community is pushed into a cash crisis by hitting its spending ceiling based on 1 per cent of member states' value-added tax.

It is this prospect of running out of money which produced much of the motive power behind the ministers' decisions. All wish to avert such a catastrophe before the Ten have decided to restructure the budget. Thus the fact that the Commission's budget proposals would have consumed all but £346m of available resources was a cause for concern when no provision was made for next year's farm price increases. In addition, almost every Community government is struggling with domestic political pressures calling for public spending cuts, and therefore felt bound to question the Commission's judgment that Community payments should rise by 28 per cent next year.

Two governments, however, followed the political logic through to an unequivocal conclusion. President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, facing the election next April, is determined that French farmers should enjoy as high a farm price increase as he can wring out of the other eight by next March 31. Hence the French requirement that funds be available for farmers, and hence the need to cut the Commission's proposals.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, meanwhile, obviously wants victory at the polls on October 5, and both the size of his Government's budget deficit and of West German contributions (now much the largest) to the Community budget have featured as campaign issues.

There was also a strong element of Community politics in the Franco-German calculation. The area of the budget which the European Parliament is indisputably free to adjust is non-obligatory spending, largely non-agricultural part of the budget. Here, the procedure is much more complicated than in any elective democracy. The indicative rate of increase of non-obligatory spending is determined by the so-called "maximum rate," a Commission calculation based on the growth in member states' domestic budgets and the trend of the Community's gross domestic product and overall inflation. The maximum rate for 1981 over 1980 is 12.2 per cent. The Commission's non-obligatory spending proposals were 38 per cent higher. By Wednesday morning, the council had cut the increase back to around 12 per cent, that is, the constitutional maximum rate.

Now the Parliament can, and probably will, exercise its power to restore cuts, without council approval, of up to half the maximum rate—which means that non-obligatory spending inevitably rises to 18.3 per cent. Appropriations beyond that are a matter for agreement between the Council of the Parliament, which could take up to December or beyond to finalise. The Parliament may, as it did last December, reject the entire budget if more than half its members are present and two thirds vote for rejection. The result would be to block a 1981 budget and force the Community into a spending strait-jacket based on its 1980 budget.

Now, in the face of a possible confrontation with Parliament, the Franco-German economy drive may collapse. This is for the simple reason that Parliament's amendments, which will almost certainly favour restoring some of the Commission's plans, can be rejected only by a qualified majority of the council.

Italy, because it has a strong interest in regional and social spending, and because it detests the cuts bullied through this week, is likely to favour the Parliament's position. It will be supported by some, if not all, the Benelux countries and Denmark.

Clinching the likelihood of adoption of a 1981 budget in some form or other is the UK interest. First the British Government want a smooth procedure to ensure that it receives as much as possible of its £771m budget rebate by the end of next March. Thus it will cast its votes in the direction likely to avert a deadlock with the Parliament. Second, the four-score British MEP's are likely to frustrate any attempt to build a two thirds majority in favour of rejecting a 1981 budget. This week's battle does not make a war.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DRAFT BUDGET

(in millions of Units of Account*)

	1980 budget		Commission draft 1981		Council draft 1981	
	Appropriations	Expenditure	App.	Exp.	App.	Exp.
TOTAL BUDGET	17,318.9	15,683.1	211,731.8	20,051.4	20,932.0	19,260.0
OBLIGATORY SPENDING	13,149.0	13,118.1	16,643.4	16,495.7	No change	
EEOGA guarantee (farm price support)	11,485.5	11,485.5	12,941.5	12,941.5	No change	
Other	1,663.5	1,632.6	3,701.9	3,554.2	No change	
NON-OBLIGATORY						
Regional Fund	1,165.0	403.0	1,600.0	770.0	1,400.0	500.0
Social Fund	909.5	374.3	1,000.0	710.0	923.0	560.0

* UA=£0.63

East-West tangle in Madrid

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

THE PREPARATORY meeting here for the Third Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe is becoming increasingly bogged down by fundamental differences of view between East and West. Delegates from 35 states have been meeting in Madrid since September 9, but no substantive progress has been made.

The meeting is discussing the procedure and framework for the main conference which is due to open on November 11. But these procedural matters reflect the differing approaches of East and West Europe, plus the U.S. and Canada, towards the conference. Behind dry diplomatic language and wrangling over even where commas should be placed lie vital points of principle.

Western delegates are *determined to draw up an* agenda for the November conference that allows proper time to castigate the Soviet Union for its abuse of human rights and the East bloc's failure to live up to the Helsinki Act of 1975—the Act which was an agreement on a set of principles for conduct between European states signed after the First Security Conference.

For its part the Soviet Union and its allies are equally determined to prevent either this happening or to limit the amount of time available to the West in which to do this.

The two sides are therefore locked in a procedural dispute over how much time should be devoted to discussion of implementation of the Helsinki Act. The Western delegates are arguing in favour of a framework similar to that used at the previous meeting in Belgrade which ended in March 1978. This procedure gave scope to the West for a thorough discussion on the Helsinki Act's implementation.

The Soviet Union is trying to wriggle out of such a framework. But having once accepted the framework, which it did at Belgrade, a precedent was created which is difficult to ignore.

Moscow tough on Poland

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

THE SOVIET Communist Party newspaper Pravda yesterday quoted Lenin as saying that trade unions in a Socialist country must be under firm Communist Party control, making it clear that the Soviet Union does not accept Poland's independent trade unions as permanent.

The quotation, which came in a review of a collection of articles by Lenin on trade unions, coincided with reports in Poland of a power struggle between the new independent trade unions and the old official bodies.

The Soviet leaders have so far tolerated the spread of the independent trade union movement in Poland, but it is unlikely that they would have called attention to its ideological unacceptability if they expected the movement to last.

French retail prices show 13.6% rise

By Terry Dodsworth in Paris

LARGE increases in French public sector prices last month have fed through into another hefty rise in the retail index.

The 1 per cent increase over the July figure means that prices have gone up by 13.6 per cent compared with August last year. On the basis of the last three months' results, they are now rising at 13 per cent annually.

While the August figure was well above the level required if the Government wants to meet its original inflation target of 10 per cent for the year, it marked a significant fall on the 1.5 per cent rise registered in July. This decline is in line with Government aims and repeated statements that the inflation rate would fall in the latter part of the year.

In order to meet these forecasts, the Government can count on more stable prices in the public sector during the rest of the year—it says it will not be authorising more increases—plus fewer rises from the energy sector.

ENERGY REVIEW: NORWAY'S OFFSHORE RESERVES — BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE, NORDIC EDITOR

Gas price is key to future policy

THE PRICING of natural gas is likely to be the critical factor in Norway's petroleum policy during the 1980s. In recent weeks leading Norwegian politicians, including Prime Minister Odvar Nordli and Energy Minister Bjartmar Gjerde, have reiterated the demand that gas prices be brought into parity with oil prices in spite of remonstrations from the Americans and intervention by the West German authorities to block a deal for the sale of gas from the Statfjord field at a near parity price.

Some time next year the Norwegian Government and Storting (parliament) will have to decide whether to develop the next big oil field, the so-called golden block on 34/10, or to leave it on ice until the 1990s and to concentrate instead on bringing some gas discoveries into production to feed a gas trunk pipeline to the continent. Gas contracts at higher prices would probably swing the balance.

Moreover, it appears that the Norwegian continental shelf contains more gas than oil. In the fields now producing or declared commercial, the ratio of recoverable reserves is roughly 60/40 in favour of oil. If discoveries under evaluation are added, the ratio turns 55/45 in favour of gas.

The estimate allows for reserves of only 400bn cubic metres in the giant structure discovered by Shell on block 31/2. Norwegian experts believe this figure can be multiplied by four to give recoverable reserves eight times as big as those of the Frigg field, which supplies about 30 per cent of Britain's gas.

Even if the Norwegians delay development of 31/2 until the 1990s in order to allow time for the exploration of adjacent blocks and to decide whether the oil in the reservoir can be produced, the Oil Directorate in Stavanger expects the blocks allocated under the fourth round to provide more gas finds. Norway's reserves, it calculates, are likely to show a 70/30 ratio in favour of gas over oil in a few years.

Pricing is also part of the more immediate question of whether the associated gas in the Statfjord field should be landed in Norway or in Britain. Only about a quarter of the 4bn cubic metres a year could be used industrially in Norway; the rest would have to be exported in liquefied form.

> It can be argued that Statoil got its timing wrong.

Now that the British Gas Corporation (BGC) has offered what even Statoil executives describe as a "fair" price for the Statfjord gas, the state oil company will have to negotiate a very favourable price for LNG deliveries to the Continent to make financial sense of the project to build petrochemical plants in Norway based on the Statfjord gas.

Statoil provoked the U.S. Government to protest to Norway in June after it had contracted with Gelsenberg, BP's West German subsidiary, for delivery starting 1984 or 1985 of gas from the small Ula field — a BP discovery — at a price reported to have established parity with oil prices.

The price has not been published, but it is understood to have included a base rate 20 per cent above the average 1979 gas price, with an escalation clause linked to the development of prices for three crude oils from the British and Norwegian North Sea shelves and from the Middle East.

Statoil followed up this coup by getting a preliminary agreement with BP Gelsenberg for the delivery of Statfjord gas in 1986 at the same price. The West German authorities prevented the completion of that contract, and Gelsenberg was forced to join the North Sea gas negotiating consortium headed by Ruhrgas.

It can be argued that Statoil got its timing wrong. It clinched its gas deals when U.S. buyers were locked in tough negotiations with Algeria over LNG supplies and when the West Germans were talking with the Russians about increased deliveries of gas from Siberia. But the Norwegians do not accept the American suggestion that they were letting down the industrialised countries by taking the lead in forcing up gas prices.

The American argument, which has also been voiced by the International Energy Agency, is that the industrialised countries should use more gas as an energy source in order to reduce their dependence on oil. The incentive to consumers would be that gas offered a cheaper alternative than oil for some uses.

The Norwegians reply that, if Europe is to use more North Sea gas, then the cost of developing gas fields must be met, and that means a higher gas price. An enormous investment would be required in a gas-gathering pipeline to bring on stream some of the small and medium-sized fields.

There is a significant nuance in the Norwegian pricing position compared at least with that of the Algerians. The Norwegians are aiming at parity between gas and oil prices at the market, i.e. a c.i.f. price parity. The Algerians have been seeking an f.o.b. price for their LNG. Moreover, while the Algerians have sought to link their gas price with their own light crude oil, Statoil has been offering linkage with a "basket" of North Sea and Middle East crudes. Both depart from the traditional link between natural gas and heavy fuel oil, but the Norwegian gas would come out cheaper than the Algerian.

In any case, events appear to be moving in the Norwegians' direction, even if the buyers, including the Americans and BGC, have still not accepted their claim for price parity. The Japanese are now importing LNG from Abu Dhabi at c.i.f. parity with the cost of Abu Dhabi crude landed in Japan.

The U.S. is paying more for Mexican and Canadian gas while in Europe Ruhrgas agreed in August to pay a higher, though undisclosed price for Dutch gas. The USSR has been negotiating the sale to West European buyers of some 40bn cubic metres a year of Siberian gas; nothing official has been said about the price quoted, but in Oslo officials believe the Russians are also seeking a parity formula.

The BGC offer for the Statfjord gas also represents a substantial increase on the prices previously paid by the corporation. The price has not been disclosed but, according to Norwegian officials, it is an offer to buy at the wellhead at a price between what BGC now pays for gas from the Frigg field and the parity with crude sought by Statoil.

The "parity" price aimed at by the Norwegians is understood to have been NKr 1.10 a cubic metre for North Sea gas landed on the continent. This works out at roughly $4.70 per million BTU or in British terms 25-27 pence a therm, depending on the calorific value. The translations to BTU and therms are not exact, and in the Statfjord case BGC is offering to buy at the wellhead, not for landing in Scotland.

BGC is also understood to have included an escalation clause under which the base price would rise in line with the development of a blend of British heavy fuel oil prices and North Sea crude prices between now and 1986, when the first deliveries are due.

The Norwegians may have succeeded in forcing BGC into raising its price, but it is by no means certain that the Statfjord gas will be piped to Scotland through the new British gas gathering pipeline, even though this would offer the simplest and most economic solution. Political considerations may lead the Norwegian Government and Storting to plump for landing in Norway.

Earlier this year Norsk Hydro submitted a plan for landing the gas on the Norwegian west coast and building on the site of the Mongstad refinery NGL separation and LNG plants together with ammonia, methanol and ethylene plants.

Statoil reacted sharply: it has plans to expand capacity at the Mongstad refinery in two stages from the present 4m tonnes to 10m tonnes a year and realised that two major projects could not be undertaken simultaneously at Mongstad.

> The projects would provide between 1,300 and 2,000 new jobs.

It tabled two alternative projects for the industrial use of the Statfjord gas in Norway and set about obtaining sales contracts for the LNG which would be available for export. Statoil's managing director Arve Johnsen indicated that capital investments of some $3bn would be required.

The present position is that the Industry Ministry has asked Norsk Hydro and Statoil to submit formal applications for two projects, one at Mongstad and the other at Karsto, and to indicate how much they would pay for the gas. It is an open secret that the Norwegian companies cannot match the BGC offer, if their industrial projects are to be run at profit.

On the other hand, the projects would, it is estimated, provide between 1,300 and 2,000 new jobs directly or indirectly in the west coast area and the projects are strongly backed by local politicians. Some time next spring the Government and Storting will have to decide whether it is wise to build up industries, which are not economically viable in their own right, and, if so, how much they are willing to pay for the new jobs.

But the Statfjord case is an exceptional one in the total Norwegian gas picture. The most recent discoveries on the Norwegian shelf have put Oil and Energy Ministry into a dilemma, because if it allows them to be developed unhindered, the production ceiling of 90m tonnes a year laid down by the Storting will be broken in the next ten years.

The investment volume would probably also be more than the small Norwegian economy could safely cope with. Capital spending has been running at a level of about Nkr 10bn ($2bn) a year for the past five years and a further Nkr 36bn in 1979 prices are already decided for the period up to 1984.

Production from the fields on stream will level off at 60-65m tonnes oil and gas a year in this decade. Mr. Johnsen has said that the golden block will be declared commercial this year. Investment could start in 1981, but its output alone would take Norwegian production to the 90m-tonne ceiling.

It is becoming more and more evident that in the not too distant future Norway will have to choose between oil and gas. Then the price offered for the gas could be decisive.

RESERVES FROM NORWEGIAN CONTINENTAL SHELF

	In place		Recoverable	
Fields declared *commercial*	Oil cu metres m	Gas cu metres bn	Oil cu metres m	Gas cu metres bn
Albuskjell	34	40	13	23
Cod	6	9	4	8
Edda	36	9	8	6
Ekofisk	849	191	180	111
Eldfisk	588	141	88	52
Frigg*	—	158	(1)	127
Murchison*	19	1	8	(1)
N.E. Frigg	—	19	(1)	14
Odin	—	30	(1)	22
Statfjord*	682	119	367	40
Tor	144	25	27	18
Ula	70	8	29	3
Valhall A	216	54	43	28
West-Ekofisk	54	31	14	28
	2,698	836	781	479
Fields under evaluation				
Balder	77	—	16	—
Bream	(1)	(1)	(1)	—
Brisling	(1)	(1)	(1)	—
Flyndre*	(1)	(1)	(1)	—
S.E. Frigg	—	1	—	1
E. Frigg	—	6	—	5
Helmdal	4	49	2	36
Hod	59	15	12	9
Murphy	—	2	—	2
Sleipner	40	210	14	145
S.E. Tor	21	6	4	3
Valhall†	160	40	32	24
1/9-Alfa	26	19	5	11
1/9-Gamma	18	18	4	13
15/3-1	24	84	6	63
25/2-4	23	25	4	12
30/6	—	34	3	27
30/7-6	—	32	—	25
31/2		570		399
33/9-Alfa	37	4	18	2
33/9-Beta	78	4	39	2
34/10-Alfa	17	6	8	4
34/10-Delta	233	15	114	7
	817	1,140	281	790
Total	3,515	1,976	1,061	1,269

N.B.—NGL included in oil figures. (1) = less than 1. 1 cu. metre = 6.3 barrels. * Norwegian interests: Frigg 60.82%; Flyndre 30.20%; Murchison 16.25%; Statfjord 84.09%. † The Valhall except Valhall A.

Source: Oil Directorate

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Reagan shatters moratorium on political comment

Carter accused over Gulf war

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE BRIEF moratorium on political comment here on the Iraq-Iran conflict has been shattered by Mr. Ronald Reagan's charges that President Carter's policies have been responsible for the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf.

Campaigning in Texas and the Far West, the Republican candidate alleged specifically that if the Carter Administration had not "pulled the rug" from under the Government of the deposed Shah, Iran and Iraq would not be at war.

More generally, he said that the U.S. was forced to adopt a policy of strict neutrality because it did not possess the military capability to do otherwise.

Bearing in mind that the President has recently accused him of being a threat to world peace and has cited several past instances where he has appeared to have advocated the use of American troops overseas, Mr. Reagan was careful to add that "I am not looking to use force any place unless it is absolutely necessary to our national security." He did not say whether events in the Gulf met that condition.

The White House was quick to respond, with Mr. Jody Powell, the Presidential Press Secretary, saying it was "absurd" for Mr. Reagan to suggest that Mr. Carter's policies could have caused a war between Iran and Iraq.

Indeed, later in his campaigning day, Mr. Reagan toned down the language of his assault in a more general statement, on which he refused to elaborate, noting the threat to both the safety of the U.S. hostages and to world oil supplies, but still saying that "a vacillating foreign policy and a weakened defence capability are largely to blame."

Mr. Reagan also took dead aim at what he described as the "feeble" attempts of the Administration to secure the release of the hostages in Iran. He repeated what he had said earlier in this election year but had ignored of late—that the U.S. should have made clear that "no nation could continue to have friendly relations with Iran and have friendly relations with the United States."

Ronald Reagan . . . hitting out.

For much of his western swing, Mr. Reagan had been trying to focus on the local issues that serve him so well in the region, such as the use of resources and the distaste for Federal bureaucracy, as well as his standard drumbeat of criticism of Mr. Carter's economic record.

But, as has been apparent throughout the last month, the campaign has been effectively dominated by a series of transcontinental wars of words, with Mr. Reagan seemingly forever being pushed to answer the latest in the President's verbal follies.

In so directly accusing the President of quasi-culpability in a foreign war, the Republican nominee is trying to take the initiative in this game for once. But he has also in the process broken new and, for him, possibly dangerous new ground.

It is a political rule of thumb that to attack a siting President at a time of palpable international crisis tends to be counter-productive.

Senator Edward Kennedy found this out ten months ago when he implied that the President had been too close to the Shah and that the Iranian demands for restitution had merit. Public reaction to that suggestion hurt Mr. Kennedy a lot.

It is a certainty that the Carter campaign which showed its sharpness in turning Mr. Kennedy's charges against him, will do the same with Mr. Reagan—thus exacerbating the bitterness that has already been such a feature in this race for the Presidency.

That there is national discontent with Mr. Carter's record in foreign policy is not in dispute, but to exploit is not necessarily politically easy. This is doubly so when it is Mr. Reagan who is seeking to do the exploiting because doubts about Mr. Carter performance are matched by reservations about Mr. Reagan's abilities in international affairs.

Hollywood actors' strike to end soon

By Paul Betts in New York

THE TWO-MONTH-OLD actors' strike which has brought virtually all filming activity in Hollywood to a stop and cost the industry about \$40m (£16.6m) a week, is expected to end shortly.

This follows a tentative agreement reached between the actors' union and the producers in Hollywood yesterday. The actors are expected to ratify this during the next few days.

The contract includes a 15 per cent increase in minimum salaries for the first 18 months and 15 per cent over the second 18 months for a compounded increase of 32.25 per cent over the life of the contract, Mr. Phil Myers, representing producers, said in Hollywood yesterday.

Agreement has also been reached on the more crucial issue of compensations to actors from new cable television and video cassette productions whereby actors will get a share of about 5 per cent of the royalties.

This issue was at the core of the strike as actors have been campaigning for a cut in the profits of the new electronic software which is changing the face of the home entertainments business in the U.S.

Until the two sides reached a compromise, the surprisingly effective strike had caused enormous disruptions to the U.S. film business and problems for the major national television networks, which had to postpone their new autumn seasons as series and films had not been completed.

Meanwhile, a strike by musicians at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York risks compromising the company's forthcoming season.

Britain opposes changes in IMF and World Bank

BY PETER RIDDELL IN HAMILTON, BERMUDA

THE BRITISH Government opposes radical changes in the structure and character of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Faced with demands from the less developed countries for a greater say in the running of these two bodies, the British attitude is that it is a delusion to believe that the richer developed nations will provide more support if the character of the institutions is changed.

This view emerged here yesterday as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Chancellor, and senior Treasury officials prepared for next week's Fund and Bank meetings. They are due to fly later today to Washington following the end last night of the two-day meeting here of Commonwealth Finance Ministers.

The British view is that the poorer countries must understand the reality of the financial position, and hence balance of voting power, of the U.S., the UK and West Germany in the Fund and Bank.

Changes in global financial balance have already been reflected in the admission of Saudi Arabia to the policy-making Interim Committee of Finance Ministers. This move is, however, seen as very different from turning the Fund into an aid organisation.

Sir Geoffrey Howe . . . standing firm.

There is a general recognition that the voting structure will have to be re-examined but that this should happen in the eighth review of Fund quotas which is unlikely to start until the U.S. Congress approves the seventh quota review.

In general, Britain favours the development of existing international institutions rather than the creation of new ones. It hopes that any new energy agency should, for example, be an affiliate of the World Bank rather than a separate organisation. The UK does, however, say there is no shortage of private sector capital available in the search for oil.

The British Government still hopes that the work of the Fund and Bank meetings will not be disrupted by the question of whether the Palestine Liberation Organisation should be admitted as an observer to the meetings. The issue has not been formally discussed here.

Britain has not been slow to defend its own contribution in face of some criticism from other Commonwealth leaders in view of the current and proposed cuts in the level of spending on overseas aid. British participants have pointed out that the aid budget is worth £950m which is the fifth largest in volume terms among aid givers.

This represents 0.52 per cent of Gross National Product compared with the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent.

Republican criticises Chile

BY MARY HELEN SPOONER IN SANTIAGO

MR. RONALD REAGAN'S chief advised on Latin America, Mr. Roger Fontaine, who is on a five-day visit to Chile, said that a Reagan Administration would support human rights in the continent, but in a "more consistent" fashion than the Government of President Jimmy Carter.

However, Mr. Reagan would provide more assistance to those Latin American régimes "friendly" to the U.S.

In instances of human rights abuses under such régimes, he said, the U.S. should "make private expressions of concern." Mr. Fontaine criticised what he called the "public pillory" approach, saying that such a stance could be easily labelled interventionism and did not help human rights

"It is a question of what works best," he said. "The off-and-on approach loses credibility and effectiveness."

Mr. Fontaine, a former university professor now at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, repeated reservations expressed earlier about Gen. Augusto Pinochet's régime in Chile. He said it seemed that Gen. Pinochet was attempting to remain in power indefinitely.

"There have been favourable developments in Brazil and Argentina," he said. "I wish I could say the same about Chile."

A Reagan Administration would seek to strengthen its bilateral relations with the major powers in the region, and would revise the U.S. relationship with Cuba in a more critical light, said Mr. Fontaine.

Venezuela in £8.75bn oil boost

BY KIM FUAD IN CARACAS

VENEZUELA will invest \$21bn (£8.75bn) in its state oil industry between 1981 and 1985, Sen. Humberto Calderon Berti, Energy Minister, said yesterday, when he explained the energy goals in the Government's sixth national economic plan to private businessmen.

The bulk of the investment, 41.6 per cent, will go into production, while refining will receive 17.9 per cent, development of the Orinoco heavy oil deposits, 17.5 per cent, and exploration, 15.1 per cent.

In order to achieve the goal of adequate reserves and production levels for domestic and export needs, the plan calls for raising production capacity to 2.8m barrels a day, intensifying the search for light and medium crudes, development of heavy oil potential and a reserves-production ratio of 15 years.

Sen. Ricardo Martinez, Planning Minister, reported that while the sixth national economic plan is based on an average \$30 a barrel for Venezuelan oil, it is estimated that by 1985, the average price will have risen to \$52.

Detroit wins challenge to census

BY OUR U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE CITY of Detroit has won an important court victory that could affect both the political representation and the amount of federal aid enjoyed by major U.S. centres

A Federal judge in Detroit upheld the city's suit challenging the accuracy of this year's national census. He ordered the Census Bureau to adjust its provisional count of the population of Detroit to allow for the fact that it had under-estimated the number of non-white residents

Preliminary statistics released by the Census Bureau last month suggested that Detroit's population had fallen from about 1.5m in 1970, the last national census, to only 1.15m. The bureau acknowledges that its count normally undercalculates the number of non-whites, many of whom fail to respond to questionnaires because of their transient status.

Several other maor cities with substantial minority populations have filed actions along the same lines Detroit's suit was supported by a brief from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Under U.S law the 10-yearly national census which this year cost \$1bn (£416.3m) to conduct, is the basis for determining each State's Congressional representation.

Even before the judge's ruling in the Detroit case, it was by no means clear that the 1981 reappointment which otherwise would have reflected the population shift in 1970s to the "sunbelt" States, was going to proceed on schedule.

IBM chief in row over holdings

By Our New York Staff

MR. FRANK CARY, chairman of International Business Machines and a man who normally shuns the political limelight, has thrust himself to the centre stage of a row about how much outsiders who serve on government agencies should be obliged to disclose about their personal finances.

Mr. Cary has withdrawn his nomination for membership of the board of the government's planned U.S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation, arguing that the disclosure rules amounted to an "unnecessary invasion of privacy."

Mr. Cary said he had no objection to a public listing of the companies in which he holds a financial interest or in declaring the dollar value of those interests both to the White House and the relevant Congressional committees.

But he did object to open public revelation of the value of his holdings, stating that such disclosure would not have assisted the legitimate purpose of insuring against potential clashes of interest.

As a result of Mr. Cary's objections, the White House withdrew his name from nomination on the seven-man board.

Go-ahead for Bill to ease curbs on rail prices

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

THE CARTER Administration's long-delayed efforts to lift pricing regulations on U.S. railways cleared their last hurdle when House and Senate committees agreed on a final version of the Railway Deregulation Bill.

The final bill adopts most of the features of the more liberal variant, allowing the railways widespread freedom to price *significantly* in excess of general inflation without interference from any government agency.

The bill also provides funds for a number of ailing railways including the government-controlled Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail).

Other features of the legislation are increased operational flexibility for railways, easier rules about mergers and more freedom to confer with groups of customers about rates.

One larger merger in the eastern half of the U.S., between Chessie system and Seaboard Coast Lines, was *approved* earlier this week, creating the largest U.S. railway company with combined sales of more than \$4bn (£1.6bn) last year and 27,000 miles of track. Other merger proposals are in the pipeline.

American court told of gun-running to IRA

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA—A former gun dealer told a court here that he was not aware that weapons purchased in his shop were destined for Northern Ireland until Federal agents began a gun-smuggling probe in 1976.

The dealer, Mr. Binford Benton, a former partner in the B and B gun shop in Wilson, North Carolina, is the prosecution's chief witness at a trial in which three Americans are charged with conspiracy to supply the Irish Republican Army (IRA) with guns and ammunition.

The U.S. Government contends that from 1972 until early this year Mr. Howard Brutoo of Wilson and two New York men, Mr. George Demeo and Mr. Robert Ferrerro, conspired to supply the IRA with up to 100 guns and 1m rounds of ammunition.

Reuter.

Miller fears interest rate blow

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

MR. WILLIAM MILLER, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, yesterday said he had a "real fear" that the rising trend in U.S. interest rates may abort the recovery in the U.S. economy before it has got fully under way.

At the same time, Mr. Miller stood by the Federal Reserve Board in its strategy of attempting to hold monetary growth within its annual ranges—a strategy which has contributed to tightness in the credit markets and higher rates.

Mr. Miller said the country should expect such a strategy to continue and attempted to shift the blame for rising rates upon to Mr. Carter's political opponents and the many elements in Congress which favour a tax cut before the end of the year.

Tax cutting talk, monetary expansion and tensions in the Middle East had made the money markets nervous. "Interest rates will reflect that," he said.

Less than a fortnight ago Mr. Miller was talking of interest rates having peaked, but with the Prime Rate now at 12.5 per cent and set to go higher, he is clearly having second thoughts.

In a speech to the U.S. Conference Board in New York, Mr. Miller appealed for a longer view to be taken about the need to rid the U.S. of an inflation rate which remained "dangerously high."

He appealed to business to make the 1980s "a decade of unparalleled growth in investment," in order to reverse declining productivity and capital formation trends in the U.S. economy.

Earlier at the conference, Mr. Albert Somers, Chief Economist of the Conference Board, a leading organisation of U.S. businessmen, said that the U.S. had not experienced a recession this year but "a violent monetary trauma," caused by high interest rates.

He also attacked suggestions of stimulating consumption by tax cuts, but said that the conventional monetary practices of the Fed, accompanied by wild swings in interest rates, raised serious questions.

He even suggested that the Fed's reluctant but dramatically effective use of credit controls last spring—which triggered the sharp drop in second quarter GNP — were now being "appraised with surprise and a kind of grudging admiration: perhaps even with the Federal Reserve itself."

THE IRAQ/IRAN CONFLICT

Richard Johns, Middle East Editor, reports from Baghdad on a grandstand view of an Iranian air attack on the Iraqi capital

Iranian Phantoms add showmanship to their bombing run

THE HOTEL Mansour Milia is 12 storeys bigh and Iranian Pbantom jets use it to line up tbeir bombing runs on Baghdad *targets.*

Shortly before 7 am yesterday reporters were shaken from their beds by tbe sound of anti-aircraft fire. *Three Iranian* fighter-bombers bad penetrated Iraqi airspace and were closing in on the city.

The three jets zeroed in on the hotel, a prominent landmark on the banks of the Tigria River. This correspondent saw one Phantom peel to lbe right, seemingly 100 yards from his window, ond swing across the river over the Imam al-Adam mosque and the tomb of Imam Abu Hanifa. The two sites are important shrines of the Shia sect.

The jet then dropped its bombs on military points near *the capital's old civilian airport.*

Annther Pbantom veered off in the opposite direction and struck at the small Dora oil refinery but failed to *blow* it *up.*

Big plumes of smoke rose from the Rasbid militaory camp nearby. Correspondents visiting tbe oil installation reported that it was undamaged.

The raid was among the first low-level raids made by the Iranians. Iranian jets reported to have been shot down during Tuesday's opening raid on the city were flying at a higher altitude.

The flying was impressive and hotel that possibly an element of publicity might have been in the pilots' minds.

Iraq now awaits the next military communique and Baghdad remains glued to radio and television aets for the next piece of news from the fighting.

At a press conference on Wednesday night General Adnan Khairila said that official Iraqi communiqués issued about Iranian losses were only those that could be confirmed with certainty.

Baghdad sinks nearly totally into darkness during the evening blackouts. Cars still dash recklessly through the streets flashing their lights only to avoid a pedestrian or an oncoming car.

The full moon might bave been expected to help the Iranian bombing runs on the capital but the nights bave been cloudy. Surprisingly the Iranians do not seem to have attempted lo take advantage of the moon-*light anyway.*

Early morning traffic, bowever, seems to have returned to normal. The formidable teenage girls in blue denim suits who direct traffic are back at their corner posts sbepberding the traffic jams across the bridges whicb span the Tigris.

Despite the closure of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, Iraq's only outlet to the sea and the scene of fierce fighting for three days, there appear to be no shortages in the city.

General Khairallah told o Press conference that Iraq fully realised the danger of starting a major *conflict in the Gulf.* Ha added that he hoped Iran would agree to Iraq's demands, for recognition of disputed territory as Iraqi.

It is certain that there have been civilian casualties in the city but full figures are not available.

The raid yesterday morning appeared to be in retaliation for the previous night's raid by the Iraqis on Kharg Island, the Iranian tanker terminal in the Gulf.

Later a statement by the high command said 13 enemy aircraft were shot down in attacks on *the Dor* refinery and the northern Iraqi cities of Mosul Erbil and Kirkuk.

The Iraqis, for their part, have promised to answer the Iranian's "tit for tat" when they attack oil installations or civilian areas. Iraq now claims to have captured 115 square miles of Iranian border territory.

Meanwhile from Kuwait come reports that hundreds of foreign refugees from southern Iraq flew home yesterday. An unknown number of people were still waiting at the Abdali crossing point on the *Iraq-Kuwait border for* permission to cross, diplomats said.

A Polish embassy official said *two flights* were leaving to take home between *400* to *500* Poles. They were mainly employed at the Zubair petrochemical complex in Iraq.

The British embassy said most of the 300 Britons who had arrived in Kuwait had flown to Britain or to countries lower down the Gulf.

The last British group to arrive at the frontier, six people including children, was due to leave by air later.

Oil production 'goes on despite war'

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN BAHRAIN

IRAN'S oil production is continuing despite the war with Iraq, the country's Oil Minister, Mr. Javad Tondguyam, claimed yesterday.

In his first interview on taking office, he said that althougb Iran's main refinery at Ahadan had heen shut, along with the main crude oi lterminal at Kharg Island, production was continuing at ahout 500,000 barrels a day (b/d) so as to meet the capacity of the country's other refineries.

This level is less than the estimated domestic demand of 700.00 h/d and does not account for reports that Iraq is near to controlling the Naft-e-Shahr oilfield which exclusively supplies the refinery at Kermanshah. Until the war, oil production was estimated at about 1.7m b/d of which 1m b/d was exported.

Mr. Toodguyam's remarks, made in a telephone interview with Bahrain, were laced with propaganda. Asked about damage to oil installations, he said the residential areas of the Abadan refinery had been severely attacked along with the hospital and schools. The hospital's operating theatre bad been destroyed hut an emergency hospital had been set up. The oilfields and installations under attack included the residential area of Ahwaz, the city in the centre of the oilfields of Khuzestan province.

The new oil minister who is 30, replaces Mr. Ali Akhbar Mcinfar. He said oil exports would be resumed as soon as the emergency was over. He was not able to cost tba damage cansed to installations so far.

The former Oil Minister has now taken a seat in the Iranian Parliament, where he is to head the parliamentary oil committee.

Further details of the state of Iran's oil industry and economy were given by Mr. Ali Reza Nowhari, governor of the Central Bank, in another telephone interview. He aaid there had been small quenes for petrol but this was because of particular demand from taxi drivers.

He disclosed that aome oil was still heing exported. An arrangement for credit on a shipment bad passed through the central hank yesterday, indicating that a sbip bad just heen loaded. Mr. Nowhari was oot prepared to say wbere this had taken place. Although Kharg Island is closed, the situation regarding Iran's offshore oilfields which formerly prodnced 400,000 b/d is not known, and the export could have been from them.

The overall picture from a series of conversations with people in Tehran indicated that life in the capital was comparatively calm. One man did say, however, that with the blackout aod less cars on the road, the capital was a dead city after 7 pm.

A Moslem ambassador described the mood as one of a nation ready to fight on. Since the hombing attacks on the airport earlier in the week, there bad been no visible sign of the war in the capital although there were more police and revolutionary guards on patrol.

Prices continue to firm

BY MARTIN DICKSON

PRICES on the crude oil and products markets continued to firm yesterday in response to the war, with gas oil rising by some $10-$15 a tonne on the day, but the high level of world oil stocks meant that trading remained thin.

On the products market, gas oil barge-loads in north-west Europe were quoted at $314 to $320 a tonna, compared to $300-$305 on Wednesday and around $280 last Friday. Other products also firmed. Heavy fuel oil was quoted at up to $180 a tonne, jet fuel up to $340 and premium grade petrol at up to $350 a tonne.

Although concern about the continned fighting, large oil companies remained sanguine about the short-term supply prospects.

Baghdad foreign reserves third in OPEC table

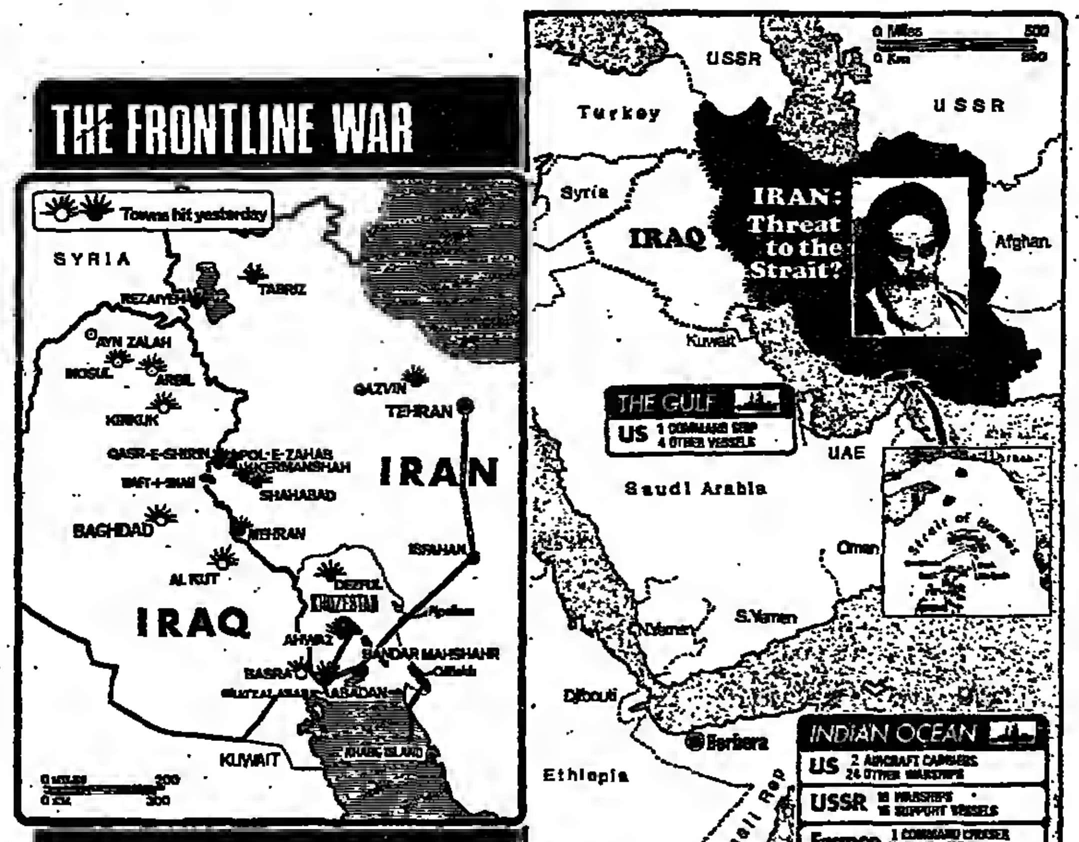
BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IRAQ IS believed to have the third largest accumulated financial reserves of any of the countries belonging to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, but information about their precise size and where they are deployed is scanty.

Estimates put Iraqi reserves at between $18bn (£7.5bn) to $26hn at the end of last year. Before the current war and the resulting uncertainty it was estimated that Iraq wonld have accumulated approximately $40bn hy the end of this year. That would put it hehind only Saudi Arahia, expected to have total accumulated assets of between $100hn and $120hn at the end of the year, and Kuwait.

Iraqi funds are thought to be deployed in Paris, London, Frankfurt and other Euromarket centres and it is believed that some of its reserves are held in the U.S.

Iraq is believed to want its reservea in a hasket of currencies reflecting its needs in paying for imports. But Iraq is paid for its oil in dollars and there are more financial instruments for bolding funds in the dollar and sterling than in other currencies.



Khuzestan—cockpit of the fighting

BY ANDREW WHITLEY

KHUZESTAN Province, known provocatively in much of the Arab world as "Arabistan," is the cockpit of this week's bitter fighting between Iran and Iraq.

Its usual description is the "oil-rich province." Over three-quarters of *Iran's oil reserves* are located there, as are the huge refinery at Abadan and the oil-products port of Bandar *Mahshahr.*

For many years, Iraq bas, off and on, championed the return of the province to the Arab fold arguing that most of its inhabitants are of Arah racial stock.

No claims to "liberate" tbe provinca on hehalf of its oppressed people have been mada by the Iraqi command so far during this war. The generals, as well as the party overlords of the Revolutionary Command Council, might have heen encouraged to do so if the Iranian Arahs had not put up such an inadequate fight in their demands for autonomy last year.

Contrary to the popular impression, native Arabic speakers form a minority of the estimated 1.5m-2m inhabitants of Khuzestan. The development of the oilfields and of the cities as industrial centres has been accompanied in the past 30 years by an influx of Persian-speakers from further north, *changing the racial balance* and ensuring the region's place within Iran's national frontiers.

Instead of seizing the whole *province up to the line formed* by the Zagros foothills, the Iraqi attacks have concentrated on the most vulnerable, strategic spots in the province.

Strung along the marsh and mud flats of the Gulf coast are a line of some of Iran's most important industrial sites, beginning with the Abadan refinery and ending with the unfinished Iran-Japan Petrochemical Company at Bandar Khnmeini.

But in this 100-mile strip, Iran under the Shah had invested as much as $8bn (£3.3bn) in its all-ont effort to achieve economic take-off. All the installations are now at risk from the spreading of the war.

Sadat says coup likely in Tehran

PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat has forecast an Iranian army coup against Ayatollah Khomeini and is suggesting that the U.S. should capitalise on the situation before the Soviet Union, Alan Mackie *reports from Cairo.* "I would like to see anything instead of Khomeini, anyone, anyone," the Egyptian leader *said in an interview.* He added that he was not going to propose a plan to remove the Ayatollah. "The U.S. is much better than me at formulating plans," he said. But he would offer them facilities. In communiques Egypt has proclaimed strict neutrality towards the fighting, which Mr. Sadat has described as tragic, blaming the "adolescents" in power in the two countries for the present state of affairs.

The Egyptian leader hinted that the U.S. bad already been in touch with several senior Iranian officers from the old regime and said that he was considering whether to recognise the late Shah's son, Crown Prince Reza, who is resident in Cairo with other members of the Iranian royal family, as the rightful heir to the throne when the Prince celebrates his 20th birthday next week.

Hormuz Strait may be ace up Iran's sleeve

BY JAMES BUXTON

THE STRAIT of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf bas been recognised since the fall of the Shah of Iran early last year as the most vulnerable point in the Gulf region on which the Western countries depend for about balf their oil supplies.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan bas led to the U.S. making elaborate military preparations to move sbips and troops into the Gulf area at speed, sbould it need to do so.

Yesterday, shipping was moving normally and without interruptioo through the Strait, under the control and authority of the Sultanate of Oman, through whose territoral waters the navigation channel *in the* Strait runs.

In view of President Carter's pledge of strict neutrality in the Iraq-Iran conflict, the U.S. Government is most reluctant to becoma involved in military moves to end any blockade that Iran might impose on the Strait—perhaps as a means of heightening the crisis with a view to persuading other powers to press Iraq for moderatioo.

But only France of the Western powers has a naval force in the Indian Ocean. It comprises 12 sbips led by a command cruiser. At present, Britain has no warships in the Indian Ocean, though a force passed through some time ago on its way tn the Far East.

Oman has a small naval station on Goat Island off the Masandam peninsula on the southern side of the Strait, from which it co-ordinates the operations of its patrol boats and helicopters guarding the Strait.

But it emphasised after the fall of the Shah that its navy does not have *the* capacity to defend the Strait in the more dire form of emergency that it could now face. In particular, its largely British-officered Navy has no minesweepers in the event of a hostile power laying mines.

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have small and relatively inexperienced coastal navies. The U.S. is apparently discussing the possibility of these forces becoming involved in a force to lift any blockade of the Strait.

The U.S. itself has a five-ship force based on Bahrain in the Gulf, of which three ships are at present in the Gulf. More distant is a very powerful force of a further 26 ships, led by two aircraft carriers with some 120 aircraft on board. These are officially said to be in "the northern reaches of the Arabian Sea off the Omani coast."

Near the British-owned Indiao Ocean island of Diego Garcia, the U.S. has seven chartered frigates and tankers with *armour and provisions for a* 12,000 mao Marine hrigade.

This is the spearhead of what will eventually become a rapid deploymeot *force of 200,000 men* which can be projected into the area through a total of 15 airfields and ports in Oman, Kenya, Egypt, Djibouti aod Diego Garcia.

The U.S. concluded an agreement with the Sultanate of Oman in June, under which it will be allowed increased access to Oman's naval and air force bases—at Muscat, Masirah Island, Salalah in the southern Province of Dhofar, and Thamarit, an airhase inland from Salalah.

But these facilities are designed primarily to be used in the case of the U.S. needing to bring its own forces into the area to meet a supposed threat froo the Soviet Union. The U.S. also has an agreement to use the naval and *air force facilities* at Mombasa in Kenya.

The U.S. is already using three Egyptian bases at Cairo West, Qena, and Ras Banas, which is an oirfield on the Red Sea near the Egyptian horder with Sudan. This is to he built up at the cost of $400m into a much more aophisticated facility than at present.

The most controversial of the U.S. agreement was signed in late August with Somalia and gives the U.S. access to the naval facilities at Berbera and Mogadisbu in Somalia. Berbera was developed by the Soviet Union and also has a long 15,000-ft airstrip capable of taking the largest U.S. transport aircraft as well as B-52 bombers.

The U.S. reckons it could get some combat troops to the area within 48 hours, while the 82nd Airborne Division would take batwen 10 days and fortnight to reach the area.

The deployment of the full 200,000 men, plus 100,000 reservists, will only be possible when new supply ships and 130 new CX jst transport aircraft have been built—in up tn five year's time.

The Rapid Deployment Force should be created by drawing U.S. troops away from other parts *of* the world, and not by increaaing the total strength of the army. It amounts to a buge effort to compensate for the *fact* that the U.S. is about 7,000 miles from the West's *major* source of imported.

Battle to secure stakes in a difficult market

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

IRAQ bas always been a difficult country for exporters. Its State-controlled industries have usually heen guided in their purchasing requirements hy the political alliances of the ruling élite.

But with Iraq the second biggest oil exporter in the world, with revenues scheduled—before the war hroke out—to be $35hn (£14hn) in 1980, the industrialised countries have fought hard to secure a share in the market.

Japan bas been the most vigorons competitor in Iraq since the 1973-74 oil price increase. Following the October war, Mr. Kukuei Tanaka, the then Japanese Prime Minister, visited Baghdad and credits for industrial plant were agreed in return for the Japanese purchase of 90m tonnea of Iraqi crude oil.

In subsequent years, Japan has held its position as the biggest exporter to Iraq, together with West Germany. In the first quarter of this yera, Japanese exports were running at a monthly rate of a little under $200m compared with oil purchases worth $390m.

West Germany was hit hy a trade embargo imposed in 1978 but is still a premier exporter of machinery. It benefits from the exclusion of tbe U.S. from Iraq.

The U.S. does sell some osphisticated oil equipment, and Boeing has supplied Iraq's national airline with its aircraft, hut even tbis contract is in doubt because of a ban by Washington on the sale of aircraft which could be put to military use.

France has made the higgest bid for the Iraqi market. Since the early 1970s, it bas persistently cultivated the Iraqi leadership.

This led to guaranteed sales of 30m tonnes of crude to Fraoce in 1980, orders for Mirage F1 fighters from Dassault and a number of contracts fnr French companies notably the contract for *the* new Baghdad International airport heing huilt by Fougerolle.

The UK has won *few* construction contracts but is a steady supplier of equipment. The Iraqis have always been eager to bave a broad range of suppliers to call on.

Brazil, for instance, gets half its oil imports, some 500,000 barrels a day, from Iraq, and in return has won a numher of lucrative contracts.

Yugoslavia is heavily engaged in dam construction.

Iraq has proved a more attractive market than Iran over the past 18 months. The exporters to Iran who will now suffer are *the suppliers* of foodstuffs, notably France, Australia and New Zealand

Japanese withdrawal

Plans have been made to evacuate 770 Japanese workers emplnyed at the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical complex in Iran, which was attacked by Iraqi aircraft on Wednesday, Richard Hanson reports.

According to Mitsui, leader of the Japanese companies involved in the joint venture, three bombs struck the complex, but only one caused any damage. A storage tank was hit and the debris damaged pipes nearby. The project is 85 per cent complete.

Saudis on alert

Sandi *Arabia* and *other Gulf* countries have put their armed *forces* on alert as a self-defence precaution in *case the war escalates,* Government officials sald in Bahrain, AP reports. The Saudis had moved an unspecified number of *anti-aircraft* missile units to their eastern province, which contains Dammam, the world's biggest oil field, and the Gulf oil terminal of Ras Tanura, the officials added.

Bakhtiar denial

Dr. Shahpour Baktair, Iran's last Prime Minister before the Khomeini régime took power, has not formed a Government-in-exile and has no immediate plans to do so, a member of Dr. Bakhtiar's staff said yesterday. Newspaper reports that Iranian exiles bent on overthrowing Ayatollah Khomeini expected Iraq to recognise Dr. Bakhtiar as leader of a *provisional Iranian* Government "were incorrect." Dr. Bakhtiar was "still in Paris."

OTHER OVERSEAS NEWS

Israeli MPs meet Arafat

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

A MEETING between Mr. Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and two members of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) in Sofia, Bulgaria, has caused uprnar in Israel.

This is the first time any Israeli politicians have publicly met the bead of the PLO and the fact that the Knesset members who attended the meeting belong to the Communist Party has done little to lessen the impact of the event.

Many politicians yesterday broke the traditional peace of the Succot national boliday to demand that Mr. Tewfik Toubi and Mr. Charlie Bitnn, of the Democratic Front Party, ba brought tn trial, fnr contact with the enemy.

In the past, Israeli left-wing pnlilicians have met PLO officials but none bas met Mr. Arafat, whn is regardad in Israel as the country's most implacable *enemy.* Both the ruling Likud and the opposition Labour Parties have always rejected any negotiations with the PLO.

Mr. Toubi, an Israeli Arab, is a long-time member of the Communist Party. Mr. Biton's Black Panther movement outraged the country in the early 1970s wben members rioted to demand better bousing and greater opportunities for the country's Oriental immigrants.

The two met Mr. Arafat while they and two nther Israeli Communist leaders were attending a meeting in Sofia on Wednesday. The meeting was alsn attended by two West Bank mayors deported by Israal earlier this year, and also by Mr. Bassam Sbaka, Mayor of Nablus.

Mr. Yoram Aridor, a daputy Minister in the Begin Government, yesterday demanded that the fnur Israelis be tried for treason. Mr. Shimnn Peres, the Labour Party leader, also condemned the meeting.

But some other *centre and* leftist politicians either dismissed the meeting as unimportant because the participants are Communists, or welcomed it as a sign that it would he possible to negotiate with the PLO.

AP reports from Cairo: Gen. Ahmed Badawy, Egypt's Defence Minister, has inaugurated a military factory that will produce beavy arms, according to the al-Ahram newspaper. The factory is among the 20 biggest nf its kind, the newspaper added.

The $87m project will start producing heavy artillery guns, including 203 mm weapons, before the end of this year. The report went on.

The factory, called "Project 100" has Western-made productinn equipment along with certain "tecbnological" apparatus bought from East Germany and Czechoslovakia. Mr. Shawki Bably, the project manager, said.

Egyptian military factories have ao far produced light weapons, some nf which are sold to several Arab and African countries.

2 die, 75 hurt in Japan quake

By Our Tokyo Staff

TWO PEOPLE died and more than 75 were injured by an earthquake which struck Tokyo and its surroundings early yesterday. The earthquake, measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale, was the strongest in the area for 24 years.

It was followed by four smaller disturbances. Objects were shaken from shelves in bonses throughout the Tokyo area but no buildings collapsed. The damage was mnch less than that caused by an earthqnake which hit north-east Jopan in June 1978.

The epicentre was 25-40 miles below the ground in Chiba prefecture, sonth-east nf the capital. The damage would have heen mnch greater if the epicentre had been closer tn the surface.

● Japan's Prime Minister, Mr. Zenko Suzuki, said yesterday that Japan would keep its military forces at "minimum necessary" levels and was determined not to become a military power.

Delhi welcomes U.S. nuclear vote

BY K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

THE INDIAN Government yesterday welcomed the U.S. Senate's vote authorising two shipments totalling 38 tons of low enriched uranium for the U.S.-built 400 MW nuclear power station at Tarapur near Bomhay.

The shipments have been held up for more than two years while talks were beld over India's refusal to submit to full-scope safeguards on the Tarapur plant as required by U.S. law.

A senior official said yesterday that Iodia boped the U.S. would oow air-freight the fuel for Tarapor without delay. But it became clear that the last has not been heard of the contentious issue which has soured Indo-U.S. relations for five years.

The official disclosed that India had earlier this month, applied for another sbipment of 19.8 tons of low enriched uranium for Tarapur nnder the 1963 agreement which, India says, makes the U.S. contractua[illegible] fuel for Tarapur until 1993.

Since the two ahipments now to be made had to be authorised by President Carter after overriding the recommendation of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Gommiaaion and after encountering great difficulty with Cnngress it can be assumed that the next shipment will face similar hurdles.

Shipments

President Garter used bis powers tn authorise the ahipments because he believed this was in the interests of improving Indo-U.S. relations. But it is known that the Administration is under beavy pressure to decline further requests for nuclear fuel because of India's refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty or to submit to full-scope safeguards nn its nuclear power statinns.

The Indian view nn full-scope safeguards remains unchanged: that unless every country, in[illegible] the U.S. and Russia submits tn them, it considers *inspection of its nuclear stations* as discriminatory and unacceptable.

The Government is believed tn hold that if the U.S. refuses to honour the 1963 agreement nn nuclear fuel sbipments for Tarapur, India will also be free to disregard its provisions. That would mean that the used fuel now stocked in India because nf the U.S. inability to repurchase it would be reprocessed and used in the plant. India has already establisbed reprocessing facilities.

India is already in a position to make its own nuclear fuel but has so far avoided doing so in the hope that the U.S. would continue to honour the 1963 agreement. The Government bas already decided tbat future nuclear plants will not be made dependent on supplies from other countries. Tarapur has been nperating at half capacity because of the delay in shipments from the U.S.

S. Korea seeks new investors

SEOUL—South Korea yesterday announced moves to attract *more foreign capital,* under which overseas companies can set up wholly-owned ventures there.

The Korean Government has lowered the minimum level of permissible foreign investment to $100,000 (£41,600) from $1m, Deputy Prime Minister Shin Byong-Hyun said.

Previously, the Government only allowed foreign companies to go into joint ventures with local business, and the maximum foreign equity was 50 per cent.

The number of ventures 100 per cent-owned by foreign interests would be restricted by *Government guidelines,* Mr. Shin, who is also a Minister of the Economic Planning Board, said.

The new measures, effective immediately, were aimed at liberalising South Korea's economy, opening it to overseas investment, and giving investors better protection. Reuter

Kloeckner denies it has abandoned EEC steel cartel

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

KLOECKNER-WERKE, the West German steel concern, yesterday strongly denied allegations that it bas left the European steel cartel. But at the same time it called for wide-ranging reforms in the cartel, including a common sales agency for European steel and financial incentivea for those companies redocing capacity.

The Kloeckner's-Werke denial, articulated in an interview by Dr. Herberet Gienow, its chairman, comes sbortly before Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC industry commissioner, meets next Tuesday with tha beads of 12 European steel producers. Kloeckner-Werke will not be taking part in the meeting, but some of its major rivala—and critics—will, including Hoeach, Tbyssen and Krupp. *Kloeckner is clearly anxious to* make its views known before the meeting.

Kloeckner has been accused by other German prodocers, notably Hoesch, of breaking ranks by not keeping to the prodnction ceilings and understandings on minimum prices. Thia bas raised the prospect of a price war on the German and other European steel markets—a possibility which appears to bave alarmed the Bonn Government, bankers and the more financially vulnerable steel concerns.

Dr. Gienow, bowever, stressed *yesterday* that Kloeckner had not left the cartel and would follow the Commission's recommendation to cut crude steel output in the second balf of 1980. The Commission had called for a 10 *per cent reduction* in European crude steel production in the second half and now supports a 13 per cent reduction to adjust to flagging demand.

But Dr. Gieoow made clear that be would not be prepared to enter a new anti-crisis cartel agreement unless the revised productioo and price levels were applied equally to all members. Kloeckner's complaint with the current cartel has been that the prodnction ceiling was fixed at each company's 1974 level—a level favourable to all of its German competitors but not to Kloeckner, which had at tbat *stage not brought its* new Bremen plant on stream.

This has meant that Kloeckner is bound by artificially low output levels, and its new Bremen plant is having to work at only a fraction of its full capacity. Dr. Gienow said this was coating the company some DM 100m a year.

The new Eurofer cartel should, in Kloeckner's view, set up a common, privately-financed fund which would reward cutbacks in capacity and stimulate joh creation in other parts of the industry.

Plans to construct Peking trade centre in jeopardy

BY TONY WALKER IN PEKING

PLANS TO build a trade centre for foreign businessmen in Peking appear to have fallen through. Construction of the $250m (£105m) centre was to have started this year.

The trade centre has been in the planning stage for several years. China has provided more than $1m on designs

It was expected the trade building would help overcome the chronic shortage of office space in Peking for foreign businesses. Most foreign companies based in Peking work are located in botels.

The Chinese were reportedly disappointed at the lukewarm response they received earlier this year when they asked foreign businessmen if they were interested in booking space five years in advance at a cost of $500,000.

The trade centre was planned to have offices for moer than 250 companies, and would bave inclnded an botel, an exhibition hall and conference centre.

UK company wins £7m U.S. military contract

By Hazel Duffy, Industrial Correspondent

FAIREY ALLDAY MARINE of the UK, part of Fairey Holdings, has won a $16.9m (£7m) order to supply the U.S. Army with 102 combat support boats. The order follows one from the British Army for 58 CSBs placed last May.

The British design was chosen by the U.S. Army on the basis of its compatibility with the floating Ribbon Bridge, deployed *in Europe*, which has been developed by MERADCOM (Moblity Equipment Researcb and Development Command) in tbe U.S. At the same time, *the contract with a British* company is a further example of the opening up of the U.S. defence market to non-American companies.

The development of the *multi-role CSBs for NATO* purposes was done by a Fairey technical team in conjunction with the *Military* Vehicles and Engineering Establishment at Christchurch, Hampshire. The vessel can be used for military bridging operations, transporting of personnel and cargo, diving support work, harbour construction support and towing. It will be mainly used by the U.S. Army in Europe.

These two orders will increase substantially the workload at Fairey Allday Marine. Employment at the Gosport and Hamble yards, both in Hampshire, will increase by abont 120 in the next year. Major components for the vessels, to be supplied from the UK, will inclnde Sabre diesel engines and Dowty Hydraulics water jets.

Mr. Ian Sutherland, managing director of Fairey's marine division, said yesterday that he expected the U.S. order will stimulate interest from other defence forces. The Fairey group was sold by the National Enterprise Board earlier this year to the S. Pearson group. It includes Fairey Engineering of Stockport, which makes the floating medium girder bridge widely used by armies throughont the world.

Oslo fears U.S.-China ship pact

BY WILLIAM HALL, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

NOWEGIAN shipowners are deeply concerned about the protectionist implications of the recent maritime agreement between the U.S. and China. The *Norwegian Shipowners* Association yesterday expressed particular fear that the cargo-sharing provisions of the agreement would adversely affect their trade. Their concern will be raised at the October 5-6 meeting in Paris of the Maritime Transport Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The U.S.-Chinese maritime agreement was signed on September 17 and includes provisions for increased access to Chinese and U.S. ports and an agreement on cargo sharing.

The agreement is modelled along the lines of an earlier maritime pact between Russia and the U.S., and stipulates that the fleets of both countries will have access to a "substantial and equal share" of commerce moving between the two countries. In practice this means that both countries have the *right to insist that* at least one-third of the trade is carried in their own ships.

The U.S. has frequently said that it is opposed to cargo sbaring and bilateral agreements *of this nature*. At the recent Committee on Shipping meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the U.S. delegation firmly opposed all moves by *developing countries to* introduce cargo sharing.

However, the U.S. Administration has let it be known that it sees a place for such bilateral agreements wben the U.S. merchant fleet is threatened.

The Norwegian merchant fleet relies heavily on the "cross-trades" and has the most to lose by the extension of cargo sharing. Although neither the U.S. or Russia insist that the bulk of their trade travels in their own ships, the fear is that at some future date they could change their minds.

Norwegian shipowners argue that there is an important principle at stake and are hoping that the inter-Govern*mental* Consultative Shipping Group will support their criticism of the agreement.

● Maschinenfabrik Augsburg Nuernberg (M.A.N.), the West German engineering concern, has signed a deal with China permitting construction of diesel engines in Sbanghai, writes Elgin Schroeder from Bonn. The agreement with the China Corporation of Shinbuilding Industry (CCSI) came into force last week, M.A.N. said this week. No figure was announced for the value of the deal.

Finnish rig exporters show the way

BY LANCE KEYWORTH IN HELSINKI

RAUMA-REPOLA of Finland bas contracted to deliver to Global Marine of California by the end of 1982 a semi-submersible oil drilling rig of Friede and Goldman type L-907. The contract is valued at FM 360m (£41.6m), of which the Finnish inpnt is 80 per cent.

This is the second rig of the same type sold to the U.S. company this year. It will be capable of working in sea conditions north of the 62nd parallel, but will not be specially fitted *out for Arctic conditions.*

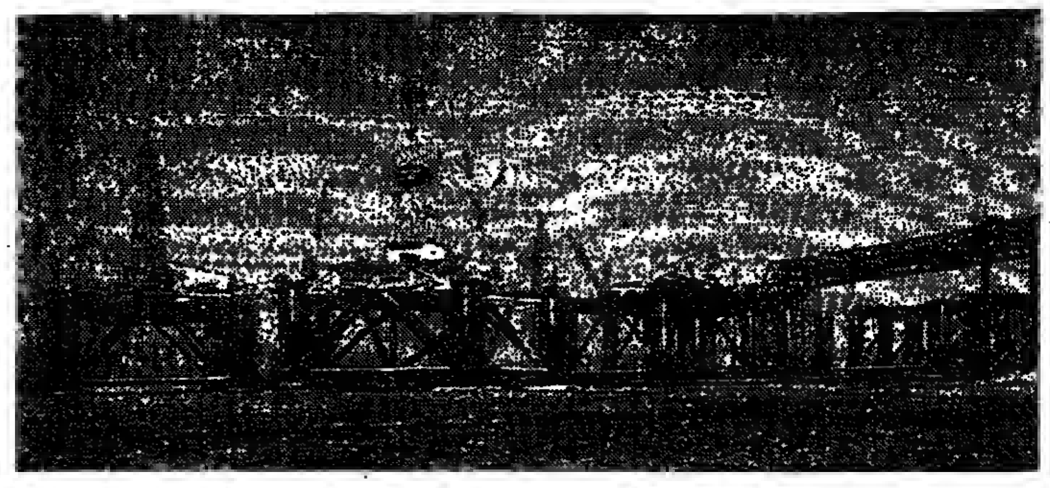
Rauma Repola, one of the biggest private industrial companies in Finland, makes a significant contribution to the country's export performance. *Its turnover in* 1979 was FM 2.7bn.

In 1969, on land reclaimed from marshland in Maotyluoto, on the west coast of Finlaod, it decided to build a plant for the *manufacture* of beavy steel structures.

"The Nortb Sea oil boom began in 1970," says Mr. Vaino Lassila, assistaot maoaging director of the company's engineering division, "and we decided to use the new capacity for building oil drilling rigs."

Kaunig's Mantyluoto works is said to be the only yard in the world apecialising in the building of oil and gas drilling rigs and ships. The yard is located oear the Rautaruukki steel works which produces high-grade steel. "Tbese facts and our relatively low labour costs plus quick delivery times make us highly competitive," said Mr. Lassila.

To date, the company has delivered 11 rigs of semi-submersible type, more than any other company in the world. Its order books are full for more than two years ahead.



Four drilling rigs being built at Rauma-Repola's Mantylnoto works.

Orders include a multi-purpose support vessel for the Shell-Esso consortium in the UK (to be delivered to Seaforth Maritime next August) for use in the North Sea.

The award of this contract to Rauma-Repola aroused a storm of protest from competing UK shipbuilders and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions which said that the Finnish tender "contained an element of unfair trading."

Rauma's bid was £42m while the British bids were more than £70m. However, Mr. Reginald Eyre, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Trade, put the record straight this year in Helsinki when he told a meeting of the Finnish-Britisb Trading Association that Rauma's bid was fair.

The yard will soon be delivering to the Norwegian company K/S Dyvi Drilling, a rig of Ocean Ranger type which it claims is the biggest rig ever built.

The Mantyluoto order books also include three oil drilling ships for the Soviet Union, for use in Arctic conditions. These ships will be positioned by satellite and computer control and kept on site by five propellers. Thns, like the craft to be delivered to Seaforth Maritime, they will require no anchors.

Zimbabwe Lome talks end cordial deadlock

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

NEGOTIATIONS on Zimbahwe's application to join the Lomé Convention ended in a cordial deadlock bere with the European Commission committed to seeking a more compromising approach from France on future Zimbabwean sugar exports to the EEC.

It has been clear that sugar would be the main problem in the negotiations since last week when France blocked an offer that would have guaranteed Zimbabwe a sugar quota of 25,000 tonnes a year.

Some 14 other African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) signatories of Lomé enjoy a total guaranteed quota amounting to 1.3m tonnes a year. Proclaiming its defence of Community preference, France, to a storm of criticism, alone opposed any concession which would risk bringing more sugar than the ACP quota into the Community.

Predictably, Zimbabwe has refused to accept a lesser status than enjoyed by other ACP sugar exporters. But, after three days of negotiations, it indicated that it might compromise on an EEC commitment to a timetable for reaching the 25,000-tonne "target quota" which is being offered.

The Commission will now put sucb a commitment from the Nine, arguing that other sugar exporters are unlikely to take np the entire qnota of 1.3m tonnes.

Italy to pay more for Dutch gas

By Charles Batchelor in Amsterdam

THE NETHERLANDS has reacbed agreement with the Italian State gas company, SNAM, for an increase in the price of Dutch gas exports.

This means the Dutch have now negotiated a higher price for about half the gas they sell abroad following earlier agreements with Ruhrgas of West Germany, and the French state company, Gaz de France. No price details bave been disclosed for fear of prejudicing continuing negotiations.

Negotiations are going on with the Belgians and with a number of private German companies. Agreement was reached with Italy last Friday, an Economics Ministry official said. Italy also represents Switzerland.

Dutch gas exports amoonted to 49.2bn cubic metres last year compared with deliveries of 44bn cubic metres to domestic consumers. West Germany was the largest foreign customer, taking 19.9bn cubic metres, followed by France with 11bn CUMS. Belgium with 10.4bn and Italy *and Switzerland together* taking 7.9bn Rnhrgas acconnts for about 6bn CUMS of tbe German offtake.

Mr. Dirk Spierenbnrg, the Dutcb gas commissioner, has agreed both a higher price for the gas as well as e quicker and more complete indexation of the price to that of oil.

The Italian contract is hased on the same principles as those signed with France and Rubrgas, thougb the price differs

Mr. Gija van Aardenne, the Dutch Economics Minister and Mr. Spierenburg are to report to the Parliamentary Committee for Economic Affairs next Thursday on the progress of the renegotiations.

UK NEWS

Sir John King to take over at British Airways

BY MICHAEL DONNE AND DAVID FISHLOCK

SIR JOHN KING, 61, the industrialist who is to be the new part-time chairman of British Airways from February 1, will probably be the last chairman of the airline appointed directly by the Government.

For the Government is planning to sell off a substantial minority of the shares in the airline to private investors, once the Civil Aviation Bill, now before Parliament, becomes law. Thereafter, it will be up to the airline's own Board (on which the Government will be represented) to appoint its own chairman, as do other private companies.

Sir John's task, aided by the new part-time non-executive joint deputy chairman, Mr. Alexander Dibbs, will be to ensure that the airline is in a fit financial state to be offered to the public at some time over the next two years or so.

The existing management, under chairman Mr. Ross Stainton (who has been with BA and its predecessors all his working life, and who retires at the end of January) and Mr. Roy Watts, the chief executive, have already done much to offset the impact of the recession, and to set the scene on the airline's ultimate renewed expansion when the recession ends.

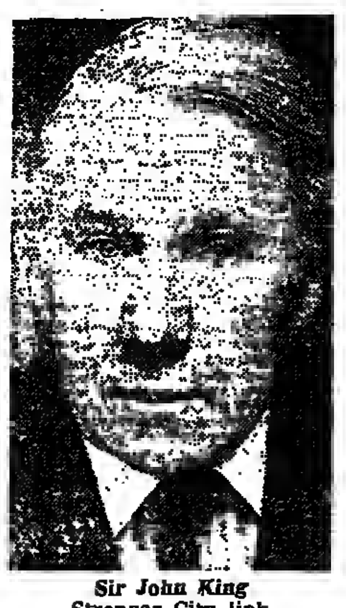
The measures to cut costs and prune staff already announced still have to work through the airline.

If they are successful they should ensure that the airline comes through the recession leaner and tougher, and better able to face the expansion of the mid to late 1980s that everyone in the civil aviation industry expects to occur.

Hitherto, the airline's relationships with the City have been limited, and it is almost certainly in order to strengthen these that the Government has decided to put on the Board, along with Sir John, such a prominent banker as Mr. Dibbs, who is also 61.

The changes in top management announced yesterday also result in the promotion of Mr. Watts who will now become, additionally, the executive joint deputy chairman, effectively running the airline on a day-to-day basis.

As chief executive, Mr. Watts has been the principal architect of the airline's long-term strategy, which in addition to the current pruning measures include the re-equipment with advanced new-technology airliners such as the new Boeing 757 for the mid- to late 1980s.



Sir John King
Stronger City link

Sir Henry Marking, currently chairman of the British Tourist Authority, and for many years a member of the Board of BA and one of its predecessors, British European Airways, will retire from December 1, as will Mr. Albert Frost, a director of Marks and Spencer.

Mr. Kenneth Wilkinson, who has been deputy chairman of the airline, will give up that position on December 1, but will remain on the Board as a part-time member.

Sir John, chairman of Babcock International, stressed last night that he had no intention "of leaving Babcock—" my great love "—when he takes up his British Airways appointment. But it is unlikely that he will continue as deputy chairman of the National Enterprise Board, to which he was appointed late last year.

Another public appointment he plans to retain, however, is his seat on the board of the National Nuclear Corporation, 35 per cent government owned. This is a government appointment although, quite separately, he is also chairman of the "basket" of companies known as British Nuclear Associates, which also holds 35 per cent of NNC. Babcock International is the largest single shareholder in this basket, with 12 per cent.

Of his latest appointment, Sir John said he was first invited to discuss taking the post only a few weeks ago, and he has not had time to explore it very deeply. He admitted annoying another newspaper yesterday when one of its reporters rang to ask how much the job paid. He told him: "I forgot to ask."

BA will cut internal fares to boost winter travel

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

BRITISH AIRWAYS will cut some internal fares by up to 50 per cent from November 1, in a bid to boost traffic during the winter months.

On the last Shuttle flight every weekday between London and Edinburgh and Glasgow, the single fare will be cut from £47 to £33. Between London and Manchester it will be cut from £33 to £24, and between London and Belfast from £43 to £29.

At weekends, the single fare on the last flight each day will be reduced to £25 on the Glasgow/Edinburgh run, £20 on the route to Manchester and £29 to Belfast.

The London-Belfast fare will compete with the cut planned by British - Midland Airways from October 1 of £10 to £33 on all flights between Gatwick and Northern Ireland.

On its Scottish routes, BA will offer cheaper stand-by fares on all weekend flights (and on certain late week-day flights) of £20 single, against £29.

BA's London-Aberdeen single fare will also be cut from £56.50 to £27, that to Inverness from £65 to £34, and to Newcastle from £42.50 to £21.

On the London-Aberdeen route, BA will introduce its new Club and Tourist Class cabins, as already offered on the London-Paris route.

The new BA late-night single fare of £33 between London and Glasgow will compare with the second class British Rail single second class rate from November 30 of £28. The Edinburgh rail fare will be £30.30, and the Newcastle rate £25.80. Second class rail day return rates will be £33.30 to Edinburgh, £28.70 to Glasgow and £28.70 to Newcastle.

● Laker Airways said yesterday that during the year ended September 26, it carried 799,212 passengers on all its North Atlantic flights, including 632,347 on Skytrain services and 166,865 on charters. Skytrain traffic to New York and Los Angeles rose by 97 per cent, and that to Miami by 126 per cent.

○ Air traffic at Britain's major airports is holding up, despite the business recession. During August, the British Airports Authority's seven airports handled 4.8m passengers — 1.4 per cent more than in the same month a year earlier. During January-August, traffic grew by 2.3 per cent.

○ Brymon Airways, the commuter and local service airline, has won a long-term contract from Chevron Oil to fly more than 100,000 passengers a year between Aberdeen and Unst in the Shetlands for oil support work.

Legal action threat to Heseltine cuts

BY IVOR OWEN

A HIGH Court battle faces Mr. Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary, if he withholds $18.42m in Government grants from 14 local authorities.

Mr. Heseltine says he intends to withhold the grant as a penalty for their "profligate" spending.

Yesterday, 13 Labour controlled councils said they were planning to mount a joint legal challenge to what they said would be an arbitrary use of ministerial power.

First, they are looking to the House of Lords to obviate the need for court action by radically changing the provisions of the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill when it begins its committee stage on Monday week.

Peers of all parties have criticised the sweeping nature of the financial sanctions which the Bill would enable Mr. Heseltine to impose against local authorities which, he believes, have failed to take adequate action to meet Government calls to limit public expenditure.

Their criticisms have reflected the views of the local authority associations, including those with Conservative sympathies.

Labour leaders hope that a peers "revolt"—similar to that earlier in the year which forced the Government to abandon provisions in the Education Bill—will compel Mr. Heseltine to change course.

If the Bill, already approved by the Commons, goes through without any material change—and Mr. Heseltine is able to use the new powers in the way he has indicated—court proceedings will be launched against him.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Environment Minister, said at a Press conference in the Commons yesterday that the issue which the courts will be asked to decide will be whether Mr. Heseltine has acted "reasonably" in exercising the new powers.

The case against him will be based on the fact that only 14 of the "very large" number of authorities who, on the basis of the yardstick included in the Bill, can be identified as major "overspenders" are to be subjected to sanctions.

It will also be argued that the Department of the Environment has used a different yardstick for measuring overspending than that included in the Bill and one which it told the Association of Metropolitan Authorities it preferred.

According to Mr. Hattersley, under this "preferred" formula, a quite different list of "over spenders" to those Mr. Heseltine proposes to penalise emerges.

"For instance, Newcastle, which has the highest rate poundage in the country, is, on this calculation, less of an "overspender" than Cambridge, Cornwall, Isle of Wight, Lancashire, Northumberland, Salop, Somerset and West Sussex," he said.

"None of these authorities is controlled by the Labour Party. Their exclusion naturally intensifies our long-held fear that the choice of penalised authorities would in part be political."

Mr. Hattersley maintained that if the Bill is allowed to become law in its present form Mr. Heseltine would be able to pick on any authority he chose.

"The House of Lords must decide whether it wishes to give the minister such capricious power, and the courts must determine if he has used that power reasonably."

Energy use falls 6.8% as industry slows down

By Ray Dafter, Energy Editor

ENERGY CONSUMPTION fell 6.8 per cent in the May-July quarter compared with the corresponding three months of last year, according to Department of Energy statistics.

When the figures, published in Energy Trends, are seasonally adjusted and corrected to take account of temperature variations the fall in consumption is seen to be more marked, down 7.4 per cent against last year. The lower demand was due mainly to reduced industrial production, says the Department.

Coal production, at 27.7m tonnes in the June-August period, was up 4.6 per cent on the previous year, although consumption, at 26.5m tonnes, was down by 4.3 per cent. Stocks of coal increased by 2.5m tonnes during the three months, and in August stood at 32.9m tonnes, 5.7m tonnes more than in the previous year.

The amount of gas supplied in the June-August quarter was 2.5bn therms, 0.6 per cent more than in the same period of 1979. This was the first time that gas supplies had shown a year-on-year increase since the November-January quarter.

Electricity supplies in May, June and July were down by 2.2 per cent. The mix of fuels in electricity production continued to change markedly as a result of a switch from oil to coal burn.

Oil demand was further dampened to the extent that deliveries of oil products dropped by 3.1m tonnes, or 16.1 per cent.

Callaghan fights to defuse issues dividing Labour

BY ELINOR GOODMAN, LOBBY STAFF

MR. JIM CALLAGHAN looks set to try to persuade next week's Labour Conference to shelve the demands for constitutional change which have been racking the party since the election. Instead, he will urge the party to concentrate on fighting the Tories and to sort out its constitutional differences in a calmer atmosphere.

As a preliminary, the Labour leader yesterday tried to defuse the issue, which otherwise looks like dominating the conference, with an appeal for unity in the party newspaper, Labour Weekly, which had a little in it for almost all the different sections of the party—apart from the far Left.

Mr. Callaghan's appeal coincided with a declaration from the supporters of Mr. Tony Wedgwood Benn, which made it clear that, whatever happens at this year's conference, the infighting is likely to continue.

The left-wing Labour Co-Ordinating Committee served notice that, once it had succeeded in changing the way the leader is elected and the manifesto written, it would start pressing other demands for making the parliamentary leadership for accountable to the rank-and-file.

Mr. Callaghan's interview may well give a pointer to the kind of tactics he will use at today's meeting of the National Executive. He said the Conference would be wise to put away the constitutional issue for the present, and "let it be considered quietly over a period when we have settled ourselves." At the same time, he repeated that he would not oppose the concept of constitutional reform altogether.

With some of the union block votes still in the balance, Mr. Callaghan still cannot be certain that he will succeed in fending off the demands of the Left for changes in the method of electing the party leader, and drawing up the manifesto, if the issue is put to the vote next week.

Both sides of the argument are trying to woo the floating union votes, and Mr. Callaghan may be hoping that his appeal for unity, coupled with his acknowledgement of the case for constitutional change, may attract some of these votes.

Today's executive will decide on the formula for putting the changes to Conference. On the agenda will be a proposal which would give Conference the opportunity to vote on a number of different methods, as well as the basic principle of whether any change is needed.

In the Labour Weekly interview, Mr. Callaghan said that in his view such important constitutional issues should not be decided in the present acrimonious climate of the party. In the circumstances, none of the proposals would be considered on their merits, only on the basis of which wing of the party would benefit most from them.

It was, he said, the National Executive's responsibility to decide the right moment for bringing forward new proposals.

Economics planned in fuel for defence

By Michael Donne

CUTS IN the use of fuel by the armed forces are expected to save up to £100m a year.

They are part of an economy drive by the Ministry of Defence resulting from the Government's decision to limit the higher cash limits allowed to the armed forces. Some proposed defence contracts have been suspended already.

The fuel cutbacks will affect three armed forces. Together with restrictions on the movement of freight and personnel, both civilian and military, they will reduce the extent of participation by the armed forces in NATO training exercises.

The ministry stressed yesterday, however, that essential operational activities would continue, and that every effort would be made to minimise the impact of the economies on Britain's support for NATO.

But some frigates will now not join the NATO exercise called Display Determination due to take place in the Mediterranean at the end of this month. Other warships may be kept in port longer than originally planned.

In the RAF, the cuts will mostly affect air transport flights, especially by fuel-thirsty VC-10 jets.

Pilot training, the "quick reaction" air defence force and aircraft allocated to NATO are regarded as "sacrosanct" and will not be affected. The RAF will also draw on some of its fuel reserves, but will not touch war stocks of aviation fuel.

BR links with Lever to offer free travel

BY LYNTON McLAIN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FREE RAIL and express coach tickets are to be offered by British Rail and the state-owned National Express coach company under separate promotional schemes with industry announced yesterday.

British Rail has joined forces with Lever Brothers, the soap products company, and National Express has reached agreement with Hovis, the bread maker, about schemes for the mutual promotion of products and services.

Both public transport operators are facing a severe decline in passenger numbers, largely as a result of the recession.

British Rail is losing passengers at the rate of 2 per cent a month and National Express, part of the state-owned National Bus Company, has already lost 14 per cent of its passenger business so far this year compared with last year.

In the case of British Rail, high fare—set to rise, for the second time this year, by nearly 20 per cent from November 30—are also thought to be deterring passengers.

The British Rail scheme is a revival of the offer last year for a free rail ticket for each one bought in return for vouchers from washing products made by Lever Brothers.

The previous scheme, which started last autumn and ran until the spring, was used by about 700,000 people and increased British Rail's revenue by £3m.

British Rail raised revenue by £300,000 as a result of a similar scheme with Kellogg five years ago and by £1.5m from a second Kellogg scheme three years ago.

National Express also proposes to offer two tickets for the price of one, in return for Hovis vouchers.

Investment trusts' role defended

By Tim Dickson

A STRONG defence of the role of investment trust companies has been made by the Liberal Party as part of its evidence to the Department of Trade on the recent Green Paper, the purchase by a company of its own shares.

Changes in the law which led to the rapid reduction or elimination of the closed ended investment sector would be "an unmitigated disaster," says the party.

Investment trusts have suffered from a poor public image in recent years, largely because their shares have often stood at steep discounts to the underlying value of their assets. In their evidence the Liberals say that any regime which permitted open ended investment trust companies (i.e. which allowed them to buy back their own shares "would increase the existing pressure on them, in many cases from asset hungry unit trust managers, to find a way of giving their shareholders the benefit of the full (undiscounted) value of the underlying investments."

This, however, would be a disaster "because only a closed ended investment medium can invest to any material extent in the unlisted sector."

Increased conservation

YOUNG PEOPLE all over Britain carried out 70,000 days of voluntary nature conservation work during 1979 and early 1980—an increase of 36 per cent over the previous year, according to the annual report of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

The trust, which co-ordinates the efforts of some 10,000 volunteers, has been celebrating the 21st anniversary of its conservation corps this year.

It has ten regional centres and a 1980/81 budget of £410,000, but says that it needs more money to purchase tools and vehicles, to train volunteer leaders and set up volunteer centres throughout the country.

An appeal on behalf of the trust will be made by Gordon Beningfield, the countryside artist and conservationist, on BBC 1 this Sunday at 6.35 pm. Donations should be sent to the trust at 10-14 Duke Street, Reading, Berkshire.

Vauxhall to export Chevette

BY JOHN GRIFFITHS

THE UK-produced Vauxhall Chevette will go on sale in West Germany next month, in spite of Vauxhall's announcement, less than nine months ago, that its role as an exporter of cars to Europe was being ended.

The cars will be sold through Opel, Vauxhall's sister company in Europe. Both companies are owned by General Motors.

The Chevette will give Opel dealers small, economical car in addition to the recently-launched Kadett, demand for which has been keeping production at full stretch.

Like the Kadett, the Chevette is a front-engined, rear drive model which can be fitted with GM's automatic transmission. This, coupled with a price to be pitched below the Kadett, should provide Opel with a small increase in market share.

The first order for 2,000 Chevettes has been augmented by a further one which should mean deliveries of more than 5,000 by the end of the year.

£8,200 paid for Roberts landscape

SALEROOM

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

THE FIRST major picture sale of the new season was held in the Crewkerne auction rooms of Lawrence and did reassuringly well. Leger, the London dealer, paid £8,200 for a view of Bellisle by the 19th century Irish landscape artist Thomas Roberts. Works by Roberts, who died when he was 30, are very rare but the price was slightly below expectation.

"Plymouth's Georgian Guildhall with a trial in progress," by Nicholas Condy, beat its estimate at £6200. It was acquired by the Plymouth City Museum. An extensive view of Rio, in need of cleaning and estimated at about £400, sold for £4600, as did a portrait of a young boy by George Swinstead.

At Christie's English furniture totalled £210,402 with a top price of £17,500 for a George III mahogany breakfront bookcase. In the wine sale Domecq paid £180 for a bottle of its own sherry which was in a cask in 1806 and bottled in 1823.

A sherry made from blends of wine aged by Domecq for more than 50 years and bottled to celebrate the joint anniversaries of the birth of James Christie and the founding of Domecq sold at prices averaging about £140 for a dozen bottles.

Sotheby's sold jewels for £313,440, with Seymour paying £16,500 for a step cut diamond with an ice blue tint mounted as a ring. A diamond brooch pendant of about 1830 realised £11,000. In the Sotheby's Belgravia silver sale a canteen of Gorham tableware sold for £3,300 and a monster coffee pot and hot milk jug both 33.4 cm high, made by Carrington, in 1900 fetched £2,600.

The exporter's market is the world: a volatile place, where disaster can intervene at any time.

It could take the form of a terrible tragedy, such as this department store fire in South America. It might be an earthquake, a revolution, an invasion. Or simply a total economic collapse.

Although many British exporters are still doing very well for themselves, such events could mean that the overseas customer, with the best will in the world, cannot meet his commitments.

Last year, ECGD paid British exporters over £250 million for losses sustained overseas, often in countries considered to be 'safe'.

Of these losses, nearly £70 million were due to the individual buyer's default or insolvency, while about £180 million were through political causes (such as import restrictions or transfer difficulties).

In other words, nowhere is completely safe. Buyers' companies can still fail in stable countries as easily as governments in shaky ones.

Yet many British companies still have their heads firmly in the sand, thinking 'it could never happen to us'.

It could: ask many of the 12,000 British exporters insured with ECGD, a government department with over 60 years' experience in helping the exporter.

ECGD offers the only credit insurance available which covers you for non-payment on exports of goods or services, world-wide—irrespective of whether it's the customer or the country that fails.

But ECGD also benefits the exporter in many other ways. Opening corridors for cheap finance, for instance, by giving cover direct to the financing bank.

Or providing cover for sales from stock held overseas, (and for the stock itself). And cover for contracts financed or invoiced in foreign currencies.

Of course, if you do take out ECGD cover, there can be no guarantee that you'll ever need it.

Equally well, there's no guarantee that you won't.

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Ferry for Sealink lacks one engine

By Alan Watson, in Belfast

THE LAST of four ferries built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast for Sealink was launched yesterday without one of its two engines.

The £17m St. David, which will carry 1,000 passengers and 300 cars, has been delayed by three months already. The shipyard is now awaiting delivery of the second engine which was damaged during tests at the manufacturer, APE-Crossley of Manchester.

All four ships for Sealink were subject to delay. The first is now operating on the Larne-Stranraer service. Two others are being fitted out before their handover for use on the English Channel routes.

Sealink confirmed that the purchase of the St. David and one of its sister ships, the St. Christopher, was financed by Barclay Mercantile Industrial Finance. The first ferry completed, the Galloway Princess, was purchased through Midland Montagu leasing. The purchase of the remaining vessel, the St. Anselm, was financed by Lloyds Leasing.

Harland and Wolff is being forced to delay some work on two liquid petroleum gas carriers worth £70m, ordered by a consortium for charter to Shell.

The shipyard said Shell was awaiting approval from U.S. authorities for a new system of insulation for the gas containment tanks.

The ships will be used on routes from the North Sea to the U.S. The original specification for the insulation was rejected by the U.S. Coastguard.

Emergency calls

LONDON FIREMEN answered 53,466 emergency calls in the first half of this year, fire fatalities numbered 70 adults, including one fireman, and seven children, and firemen rescued 168 people from fires. Calls attended comprised 25,400 fires, 10,792 special services, 8,107 false alarms (suspected fires) and 9,167 malicious false alarms.

Government support sought for information technology

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Department of Industry should be the sponsoring Ministry for the whole field of information technology, the Government's scientific advisers have concluded.

In a report published today the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development urges the Government to make one Minister and one department responsible for its policies and actions on the promotion and development of information technology.

The same department should be responsible for the regulation of communications and broadcasting, it believes.

The council urges the Government to do more to stress the importance of information technology to the future industrial and commercial success of Britain.

It calls for Government publicity and "imaginative promotion" for existing UK successes in the technology, as well as publicity for all public sector plans for the application of UK innovation.

The council wants the Government to give British Telecom—the communications side of the Post Office—a mandate to provide "a world-competitive UK communications network" and enough funds to achieve this goal.

As the council's working group sees the problem, information technology "will perhaps be the most important area of application of micro-electronics. It will eventually affect virtually every household and occupation. It will change patterns of employment and, if the opportunities to supply new goods and services are taken, has the potential to create many jobs."

Britain's trading performances will depend greatly on its ability to compete in world markets for products and services based on information technology.

The council warns that some trading rivals such as France, Japan and the U.S. have already recognised the importance of information technology and established national programmes to stimulate development.

The report gives some broad examples of what it means by information technology. One is the field of telecommunications, including satellite communications. Another is the telephone, where computer-controlled switching systems, such as System X, are bringing many new services.

Other examples are video discs, which will provide visual entertainment and education for "about twice the price of a present full-price long playing gramaphone record," and word processors, which can correct and edit typing.

The council estimates world sales for the products and services associated with information technology at £50bn a year, growing at 10 per cent a year in real terms. But it is also impressed by the radically new technological opportunities opening through the convergence of two major technologies, computing and communications.

The council's recommendations to the Government include more attention to information technology by schools and career services, more training in the subject by companies and better links between supplier and user interests to help to anticipate future needs.

It calls for Government recognition of the importance of a UK role in creating international standards and of the need for data protection.

Information Technology. HMSO, £3.30.

Lombard, Page 16

London suburban buses may all switch to flat-rate fares

BY LYNTON McLAIN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LONDON TRANSPORT'S entire suburban bus network may switch to flat-rate fare operations if a recommendation about to be put to the LT Executive is accepted.

The plan, to apply to all London Transport buses outside central and inner London, was suggested yesterday by Dr. David Quarmby, the managing director of LT's bus services.

Because of the success of the experiments on flat-rate fares in Harrow and Havering, he said he would recommend the plan to the Executive. A flat-rate fare of 20p for all local journeys has applied on buses in these areas since earlier this year.

LT had expected the 20p fare to cuts its revenue. But passenger mileage operated by the buses has increased since the scheme started. Delays and running times for one-man operated buses have improved.

However, London Transport has no plans to introduce flat-rate fares in central London. Flat-rate fares for long and short journeys would have to be set at levels that might discourage passengers from using the buses for short journeys.

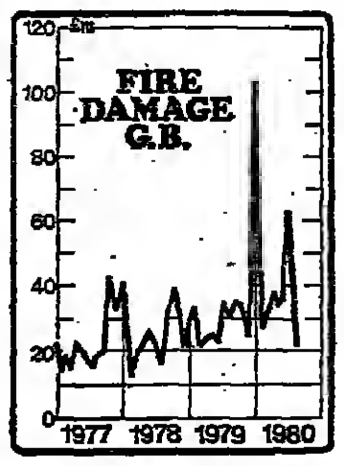
One-man buses will not be in introduced on the busy central London and radial routes, at least in the next five years.

Dr. Quarmby told delegates at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities transport conference in London that no system to replace the conductors for fare collection had been found that would speed boarding times without cutting revenue.

The conductors are used mainly on the Routemaster rear-platform buses used by LT since the early 1960s. These buses can pick up a passenger once every second. This compares with the average pick-up time of between three seconds and five seconds for one-man operated buses.

Dr. Quarmby also cast doubt on the future of London Transport's plans for its own bus to replace the Routemaster in the mid-1980s. The XRM project for a double-deck bus "with potential for one-man operation in central London," would probably now be abandoned, he said.

Instead, LT would concentrate on "further development of the excellent Leyland Titan and Metro-Cammell-Weymann Metrobus."



Fire damage costs could top £500m

By Eric Short

FIRE DAMAGE costs in the first eight months of this year reached £354.7m—only marginally short of damage costs for the whole of last year which totalled £355.3m. If the trend continues then fire costs for 1980 could exceed £500m.

Last year's damage costs would have been easily exceeded had not costs in August, at £21m, been the lowest monthly loss for more than two years, according to the British Insurance Association.

Even so, damage costs this year are running at more than 50 per cent above last year's level for the corresponding period.

There were three big fires in August where damage in each case exceeded £1m. The biggest was at a cigarette manufacturers in Manchester and cost £1.6m.

The network of fire liaison panels, comprising insurers, fire brigades and industry, in an effort to fight fire losses, will be running a National Fire Safety Week from October 27 to November 1.

OFT proposes changes in consumer rules

CHANGES IN the arbitration system for disputes between consumers and traders were suggested yesterday by the Office of Fair Trading.

The proposed changes follow an extensive review of the present system of redress available to consumers under codes of practice sponsored by the OFT.

One of the main changes suggested is that the OFT, in consultation with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, should prepare a standard system of arbitration to be offered in codes of practice. This standard system, however, would be sufficiently flexible to take account of specific trade differences.

The OFT is publishing a consultative document listing its proposed changes

Limit of 10% urged for increases in nationalised industry prices

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A 10 PER CENT ceiling on nationalised industry price rises was urged yesterday by the State-financed National Consumer Council.

Mr. Michael Shanks, the council's chairman, said consumers were tired of the constant price rises for goods and services provided by the nationalised industries.

He pointed out that in the past six years nationalised industry prices have risen more than the general rate of inflation. "And in the past year some of the price increases have been staggering."

Such large increases between August 1979 and August 1980, said Mr. Shanks, included a 30 per cent rise in electricity charges, 28 per cent for post and telephones, and 27 per cent for coal and coke. The overall level of nationalised industry price rises in this period was 26.3 per cent, compared with a 16.3 per cent increase in the retail price index.

Mr. Shanks said a 10 per cent ceiling on nationalised industry price rises should be imposed for the next 12 months. If any nationalised industry attempted to increase prices more than 10 per cent, the Government should use its new powers under the Competition Act to investigate the reasons for the increase.

Clause 13 of the Act enables the Government to ask the Monopolies Commission to investigate any price rise "of major public concern."

Mr. Shanks also made clear that the Government was as much to blame for the price rises as nationalised industries. He criticised the Government for pushing up gas prices faster than commercial considerations demanded and attacked Government policies on State industry borrowing limits.

"These policies pushed prices higher than they need otherwise have gone and mean that today's consumers are bearing the major share of the cost of capital investment to benefit tomorrow's customers."

His comments came on the publication of the council's annual report, in which he suggests a 10 per cent limit on nationalised industry price rises would help the Government and private industry to keep wage claims to single figures.

Mr. Shanks rejected the idea that a curb on price rises would automatically reduce the standard of services to the consumer.

"We think there is plenty of room for the nationalised industries to improve efficiency and lower their costs. We think a ceiling on price rises would provide the incentive they need to do just that."

In his report Mr. Shanks also makes a veiled rebuttal to the criticisms voiced by Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, at the council's congress earlier this year. At that time Mrs. Oppenheim said the council was becoming too political by involving itself in discussions on Government economic policy.

Mr. Shanks said: "The consumer interest is not restricted to a particular set of policies which carry a 'consumer' label." The consumer interest "pervades the whole field of policies which directly affect people."

Annual report of the NCC, free, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1.

Kagan plea to change trial date fails

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

LORD KAGAN complained at the Old Bailey yesterday that he would be gravely prejudiced in his forthcoming trial on theft charges if that trial did not precede one in which his wife and others are to face charges of conspiracy to defraud.

The conspiracy case is due to start at Leeds Crown Court on October 27, to be followed—probably in January—by Lord Kagan's trial.

Applying unsuccessfully to have the trials reversed, Mr. John Matthew, QC, for Lord Kagan told Mr. Justice Smith that the evidence in the conspiracy trial would contain "a vitriolic attacks" on Lord Kagan, and allegations that he would not be there to answer.

The inevitable blaze of publicity would make it impossible for Lord Kagan subsequently to get a fair trial on charges of stealing indigo dye from Kagan Textiles and falsifying accounts, said Mr. Matthew.

The application was opposed by the prosecution, and by Kagan Textiles and other defendants in the conspiracy trial.

Mr. Chistopher Holland, QC had always been that Lord Kagan had been involved in the alleged conspiracy. He had not been charged only because he had gone abroad and had been extraditable only on theft and not the conspiracy charges.

Mr. George Carman, QC, for Kagan Textiles, said that if Lord Kagan suffered any prejudice it would have been "self-created" by his failure to return to this country voluntarily.

Kagan Textiles would itself suffer commercial, human and legal prejudice if Lord Kagan's case were tried first.

The judge was told that Lady Kagan and his son, Mr. Michael Kagan, who is a co-defendant, adopted a neutral attitude to Lord Kagan's application.

Mr. Justice Smith, who is to try both cases, refused the application.

In the conspiracy trial the defendants are Lady Kagan, Kagan Textiles, Celloform (Yorkshire), Mr. Raymond Kennedy, Mr. Waldemar Ginsburg and Mrs. Ibolya Ginsburg. They are charged with conspiracy to defraud on the basis of alleged contraventions of the Exchange Control Regulations in connection with the export of denim cloth, and with falsification of accounts.

Mr. Kennedy is also a defendant in Lord Kagan's trial.

Outlook in chemicals still bleak

By Ray Dafter

THE CHEMICAL industry can expect to see some check in its falling output towards the end of the year, according to a new Government forecast.

But chemical companies are warned that the severity of the economic recession is such that it will be some time before demand returns to even 1979 levels.

A report in the Government journal, British Business, published today, says the output of the UK chemicals industry fell 9 per cent in the second quarter of this year. The position was likely to remain bleak for the rest of the year with a year-on-year fall in output of 5 per cent.

All sectors of the industry had been badly hit, but basic petrochemicals—the building bocks of various chemical products—had been particularly affected by the recession. Plant capacity utilisation had dropped "dramatically."

"Although the index of chemical production had now fallen below 1975 levels, the cost of materials and fuel purchased by the industry in the first half of this year was 30 per cent higher than in the same period of 1979.

Shell opens wage round with 12% offer to drivers

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

SHELL HAS opened this year's wage negotiations for tanker drivers and depot personnel employed by oil companies with an offer of 12 per cent on basic rates.

The offer follows one of 10 per cent made to refinery workers at BP Grangemonth and 11 per cent to workers at the company's Kent terminal. Both of these offers, however, provide the prospect of renegotiations in six months time.

The Shell offer covers 2,500 workers, of whom 1,500 are drivers, at 46 terminals, 11 airports and two lubricant plants.

Although negotiators for the Transport and General Workers' Union told the company that the offer—lifting the drivers' basic pay of £92 to £103—was unacceptable, the meeting was said by both sides to be very amicable.

The company will be replying next month to observations made by the unions which is seeking rises above the retail price index.

When the wage claim was drawn np Mr. Jack Ashwell, the union's national commercial transport secretary, said that the tanker drivers were looking for increases that would help to restore basic pay differentials eroded by the size of settlements in the private road haulage industry.

The discussions this year have to some extent been affected by a separate productivity deal at Mobil which has in effect lifted the basic rate for its drivers up to £121 in return for changes the company says will have a significant effect in improving operations.

Shell raised the question of separate productivity discussions for its drivers duriog its meeting with the union this week. Union negotiators are understood to have told the company that they were willing to discuss this.

Mr. John Miller, the union's national secretary for the oil and chemical industry will lead the union side next week in pay negotiations for refinery workers at Shell and at BP Graogemonth.

Chapple says labour law may survive

BY NICK GARNETT, LABOUR STAFF

THE NEW Employment Act bad a much better chance of survival than the 1971 Industrial Relations Act, Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Tradea Union, said yesterday. The reasons were that union opposition was much less intense, and the morala of the Left and the leadership of the unions were much weaker now than in 1971.

Whether the Act survived was largely up to the Government, said Mr. Chapple. The question was whether Ministers were preoared to change their "ineot" policies in order to avoid defeat at the next election.

The 1971 Act attempted to do too much all at once. One of its weaknesses was that it was designed to work without confrootation.

The new Act could become part of the industrial relations structure of a number of major spheres providing the Government accepted that some confrontation over it was inevitable. Mr. Chapple advised the Government not to try to drive the unions into the ground.

The union movement, although "split and directionless" and "crippled" by unemployment, knew how to defend itself collectively when it considered itself under unacceptable attack, Mr. Chapple told a one-day conference in London on the Employment Act.

Mr. Chapple supports some of the provisions of the Act. But he told representatives of industry that many of the new law's provisions would be an irritant" to good industrial relations and that, basically, it would be of little nse.

The Act's provisiona would be more likely to be used by "twilight zones" of industry, and be seen as a bulldozer for industrial "spivs." It would be used by "cranks." he said.

It was really up to industrial employers who believed in the Act to slow their good intentions by using it properl

● Mr. Denys Randolph, vice president of the Institute of Directors, said at another conference yesterday that the Act did not go far enough, and that any legal attempt to create a statutory "right to strike" would be had for industrial relations.

TUC warns Prior on pickets code

By John Lloyd, Labour Correspondent

THE TUC has told Mr. James Prior, the Employment Secretary that the draft codes of picketiog will cause widespread confusion and misunderstanding.

Mr. Prior, who met members of the TUC's Employment Policy and Organisation Committee yesterday, said after the meeting that the committee "had made a number of points that we could take into account."

However, he did not specify what these points might be, and said that the Government was determined to press ahead with the codes.

Mr. Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, said that the committee had told Mr. Prior that it believed It was "wasting its time" in talking about the codes.

"We told him we would much rather be talking about ways of bringing the level of 2m unemployed down," he said.

Mr. Prior denied that he was under pressure within his own party to make the codes law, and said that they were much more flexible than legislatioo. There was a generally felt need to clarify the law and for a change In practice.

Councils face pay claim by building workers

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, faced with strict spending curbs, are to be presented shortly with a claim for "substantial" pay rises from their 90,000 building aod civil engineering workers—the first local authority group to start negotiations in the new wage round.

Uoion leaders will also be presenting a package of demands for longer holidays, an improvement in special conditions payments and a reduction in the working week.

Last year, the group accepted a 13 per cent increase in line with the cash limits settlement reached with local authority manual workers. Although the building group's settlement date is November 1, compared with January 1, 1981, for the manual workers, it is likely this year to await indications of the direction other local authorities' pay negotiations take this winter.

Uoion leaders of the 1.5m manual workers have already drawn up a claim for a substantial increase with a warning of industrial action if employers insist on a single-figure settlement.

Negotiators for 3,500 hospital area district and works engineers, however, finally accepted yesterday a cash limits settlement of 13.4 per cent in spite of earlier warnings by members in the National and Local Government Officers' Association that a ballot would be arranged on industrial action.

The agreement not to challenge with industrial action the Health Service cash limits followed recent acceptaoce of a 13 per cent deal by the hospital administrative and clerical workers. The new deal is the last to tie up the 1979-80 pay round for Health Service employees.

Merger bid at AUEW held up

By Our Labour Correspondent

TALKS FOR smoothing the way for a full merger of at least three of the four sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers remained stalled over the basic difference of principle between the white collar section, AUEW-TASS and the three craft sections.

Leaders of the four sections, meeting at the TUC on Wednesday night, agreed that the merger was desirable, but were split over the issue of the status of the national conference of the merged union.

AUEW-TASS believes that the national conference of the union should be an open debate, with delegates free from their national committees' mandate.

At the recent national conference in Llandudno, TASS complained that the engineering section had predetermined the outcome by voting in its national committee against the three constitutional changes proposed by the Labour Party Left-wing at next week's conference.

TASS has told the Certification Officer, who supervises the conduct of union mergers, that it will take legal action to safeguard its position if he allows the merger of the three craft unions to go ahead.

Vickers to place 3,500 on short week at Barrow yard

BY JOHN LLOYD, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

VICKERS SHIPBUILDERS a subsidiary of British Shipbuilders, will put 3,500 of its hourly-paid workers at its Barrow yard on a three-day week from next Monday.

The move follows the failure of talks in London on Wednesday night between the company, British Shipbuilders and the shipbuilding committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The CSEU had tried to persuade Vivkers to postpone its decision on short-time working for its hourly-paid workers. However, the company said that a strike by 1,300 boilermakers at the yard, now in its ninth week, had disrupted the work flow and showed no sign of nearing a settlement.

Vickers said yesterday that no talks with the Boilermakers' Society had been arranged, and British Shipbuilders had backed its view that it was not breaching procedure by imposing a shorter week for its workers.

The boilermakers allege that Vickers made different levels of bonus payment to various groups of boilermakers at the Barrow yard, and had breached the British Shipbuilders national agreement. It wants the same level of payment for all.

However, other unions at Vickers, which include the General and Municipal Workers' Union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union, are now seeing their members' work cut. They are putting some pressure on the boilermakers to end the dispute.

Chemical plant workers press for hours deal

Financial Times Reporter

CHEMICAL EMPLOYERS were waroed yesterday that if they broke commitments on shorter working hours, industrial action would be considered by the unions.

The warning followed a meeting between employers and unions at which the unions said the employers asked the union side to reconsider an agreement on hours because of the recession.

Mr. David Warburton, General and Municipal Workers Union national officer, said: "We have an agreement which commits the industry to finalising a formula for reducing working hours in 1981. We have a deal and we expect the employers to honour it.

"The problems which confront our members give renewed urgency for reducing working hours.

"Either we have an agreement which both sides will honour or we don't. If the employers try to evade the firm commitmeot entered into last May then I for one, do not need advice on the logical steps to be takeo."

The agreement on hours affects about 100,000 workers in three national chemical agreements.

Mersey peace move

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

MERSEY DOCKS and Harbour Company, which faced a loss of £2.5m in the first six montha of this year, stepped in yesterday to avert a strike threat over 24 redundant shore-gang workers in the Port of Liverpool.

The company will today ask local union leaders to call off their plans for a Liverpool dockers strike next Tuesday and urge them to accept the company'a offer to take on the men in jobs which will use their special skills.

The shore-gang workers have been made redundant by T. and J. Harrison, the Merseyside stevedoring compaoy, which was at the centre of last week's threat of a national dock strike over redundant dockers.

Employers last week finally agreed to honoor the dock labour scheme's provisions for reallocating redundant dockers to other employers but the ancillary workers do not come under the dockers' job protection agreement.

A maas meeting of Liverpool dockers last Monday voted overwhelmingly to support reallocation of redundant ancillary workers. Shore-gangs are in-

Study of private funds for ordnance factories

BY WILLIAM HALL

THE GOVERNMENT has launched an urgent study into the future of the Royal Ordnance Factories (ROF). The possibility of introducing private capital into the organisation is being seriously considered.

A special study group has been formed under the chairmanship of Lord Strathcona, the Minister of State, Defence. It will consist of representatives of the Ministry of Defeoce, The Treasury, The Department of Industry, the Royal Ordnance Factories plus private enterprise. The group is to deliver its report within the oext two to three months.

ROF maoufactures weapons and ammunition for armies both at home aod abroad. It has been very successful. Over the last three years, its sales have more than doubled to £284m, and the surplus on operations after interest has risen from £11m to £36.7m.

ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORIES

	Sales £m	Surplus* £m	Staff
1975-6	149.1	13.9	20,556
1976-7	210.9	34.3	22,535
1977-8	263.2	38.6	23,169
1978-9	284.0	31.2	23,235

*after charging depreciation but before interest.

ROF operates 13 factories around Britaio, and employa over 20,000 people. It is one of the biggest industrial establishments within central Government. It appears to be a likely candidate for furthering the Government's policy of introducing private capital into state-owned industries.

At present, ROF operates as a trading fund. Its employees are classed as civil servants. It has a certain amount of independence from central Government, but it would like the freedom to act more commercially. It would like greater flexibility in its marketing arrangements, and the chance to enter into joint ventures with overseas companies.

Over half of ROF's production is exported, and with certain products, such as its 105mm light gun, it is the acknowledged world leader. Over the last six years, It haa paid about £40m in dividends to the Government and re-invested about £100m in its business.

The study group is expected to review a number of options for its future. The organisation could continue as a trading fund, or be turned into a fully fledged nationalised industry. Parts of it could be aold off to private enterpriae (two factories are already managed by private industry).

Or ROF could be turned into a limited company, under the Companies Act. This would enable the Government to sell shares in tha company (as in the case of plans for British Aerospace). This final option appears the most likely.

ROF suffered a setback in 1979 with the cancellation of an Iranian order for 1,200 tanks. In addition, a long strike at ROF Bishopton, the UK's largest producer of propellants for ammunition and rockets, has affected the group's performance. This will be reflected in the 1979-80 results, which are to be released at tha end of November. ROF has been forced to cut its workforce by some 1,200 over the last 18 months. But it is confident that the downturn in its business is temporary.

In 1978-79, ROF had average funds employed of £150m. It made a surplus on funds employed of 20.8 per cent, aod it earned an 11 per cent return on aales.

Special State aid allocations attract £540m foreign investment projects

BY JOHN ELLIOTT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FOREIGN INVESTMENT projects worth more than £540m have been attracted to the UK as a result of special allocations of £56m State aid in the past four years.

This aid is available for projects anywhere in the UK, but 80 per cent of the Investments has gone to the assisted areas where other regional grants are also payable.

These figures are contained in the annual report on the Industry Act, 1972, for 1979-80, published yesterday. The report shows that, as expected, the Government had saved £110m by the end of the financial year in March through its four-month moratorium on regional development grants, introduced last June.

The report reveals that the Government topped up its statutory limits for provision of general selective aid last January by £250m. This took its statutory limit for section 8 of the Industry Act to £1.35bn, and was needed to meet commitments started by the last Government.

It is understood that £1.25bn of this has been allocated to specific forms of aid, of which £1bn has been committed to companies' investment plans. But only about £400m to £450m has ao far been spent.

Most of the foreign investment aid was paid oot under the former Government's selective investment aid scheme. The present administration has closed this as a separate acheme, but is continuing to pay out similar forms of aid on strict criteria.

The purpose of the aid is to provide the Industry Department with extra funds, in addition to regional aid, to bid against other countries for what are known as internationally mobile projects. It has attracted companies such as Hoffman La Roche, Dow Corning, Caterpillar, and Royal Dutch/Shell.

"The scheme has been very successful in attracting inward investment projects to te UK," the report says. By the end of the 1979-80 financial year, 35 projects costing £539m bad baen allocated assistance.

"I neac bcase assistance was negotiated as the minimum necessary to bring about the benefits to the economy arising from the projects. It bas varied between 3 per cent and 21 per cent of project costs, averaging at 10.5 per cent."

Inward investment projects costing a total of £340m were also allocated £29m aid during the last financial year from the Act's section 7 regional air provisions. The report says the 126 projects involved are expected to create more than 10,000 joba and safeguard an additional 6,800.

More than half the projects involved American-owned companies which were allocated £21.3m out of the £29m.

The selective investment scheme covered general projects as well as inward investment. By the time is closed for applicationa in June last year, there bad been 742 applications in its three-year life.

By March this year grants totalling £106m had been offered to 166 projects costing £1bn, and payments of £14m had been made. Some applications are still being processed.

Altough details did not apear in yesterday'a report, it is understood that there has been only a relatively slow rate of applications for the aid ararngements introduced after the scheme was closed.

Engineering industry orders down

By Hazel Duffy, Industrial Correspondent

OFFICIAL FIGURES published today confirm that there has been a steep decline in the order books of the electrical, mechanical and instrument engineering sector since the beginning of tha year.

The figures, in "British Business" (the Department of Trade and Industry magazine), take the story only as far as June. The indications sioce then are that the order position for much of the sector has declined further. GKN, for instance, reporting its interim figures last week, could see no improvement in the second half of the year.

New orders from the home market have declined steadily since January. Export markets held up during the first few months of the year. But in the second quarter, new export orders fell by 11.5 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis. New home orders fell by 3 per cent during the same period, bring-

THE PROPERTY MARKET

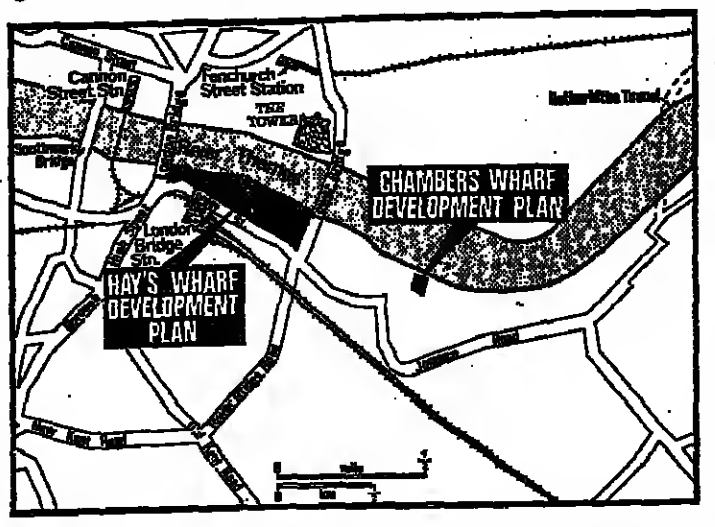
BY ANDREW TAYLOR

English Property set to take part in Hay's Wharf scheme

AGREEMENT HAS now been reached between St. Martins Property Corporation and English Property Corporation over EPC's involvement in the proposed 2m sq ft office scheme at Hay's Wharf which this week received outline planning permission from Southwark Council.

Agreement between the two companies was needed as EPC owns a strategic 2½ acres of land on the proposed 25-acre development site which fronts the River Thamse between London Bridge and Tower Bridge.

St. Martins, following the take-over last month of The Proprietors of Hay's Wharf by the Kuwait Investment Office, now controls the bulk of the remainder of the site. St. Martins is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Investment Office and presently manages a property investment portfolio, for the Kuwaitis, thought to be in excess of £400m.



EPC is now understood to have agreed to turn its holdings over to St. Martins and in return will take over the ownership and responsibility for developing a 21-storey, cruciform office block—a central feature of the development plans—which will provide around 300,000 sq ft of net office accommodation.

The whole development will provide a total of 1.5m sq ft of net office accommodation in blocks—some of which will be interlinked—ranging in size from 60,000 sq ft net to 166,000 sq ft net, although tha cruciform block to be huilt by EPC will be larger than this.

In addition the plans call for 34,000 sq ft of light industrial space, 168,000 sq ft of storage space, 53,000 sq ft of retail accommodation plus the provision of 243 homes, three acres of parkland, leisure facilities of the council's choice and the construction of a riverside walk stretching the full length of the site.

At the same time outline planning permission has also been granted for St Martins proposals—another inheritance from Hay's Wharf—for just over 90,000 sq ft of mostly warehousing with some industrial space at Chambers Wharf.

The whole project—expected to he funded entirely by the Kuwaitis; EPC's contribution apart—will take at least 10 years to complete and will cost substantially in excess of the £200m figure that bas been mantioned in some quarters.

Apart from tha loss of tha land for bousing—to be made over to a housing association—St. Martins estimate that the provision of planning gains such es the construction of a riverside walk could cost the company a minimum of £8m at current prices.

How quickly work gets underway—market conditions and a possible public inquiry notwithstanding—remains to he seen. But Mr. Brian Cann, St. Martins' chief executive, says that piecemeal development would not be desirable: if tbe development is to "create the desired impact as a major office location on the City fringes."

New look at accounts

THE ACCOUNTANCY profession is poised to take a further look at some of the more controversial aspects of property company accounts. This follows the publication of a new exposure draft on the thorny issne of depreciation charges for investment properties.

Under new rules proposed in the exposure draft the Accounting Standards Committee is recommending that investment properties should: "not be subject to periodic charges for depreciation" but instead "should be revalued annually at open market values and the valuation incorporated in the balance sheet."

The recommendations—proposed as an addition to the existing SSAP 12 accounting standard on depreciation—mark a significant victory for property companies which have argued that depreciation charges on their investments are unfair, meaningless and would bave a material impact on company earnings.

However the battle ground of property company accounts is now likely to move to other areas wbich have disturbed accountants, particularly the capitalisation of interest charges due on money horrowed to finance new development.

The Accounting Standards Committee will also he turning its attention to other procedures like the charging to development costs of operating expenses arising from buildings which have not been fully let.

While the standard of property company accounting has improved and become more conservative since the 1974/75 market collapse many leading accountants remain concerned that some items which they believe should appear as outgoings in revenue accounts are still being "hidden away" in capital accounts as part of development costs.

Meanwhile the British Property Federation has expressed its satisfaction with this week's exposure draft—hardly surprising as the proposals mirror many of the Federation's own recommendations to the Acconnting Standards Committee.

One surprising omission from the exposure draft was the absence of any proposal that there should be regular external valuations of investment portfolios. The BPF had conceded in its recommendations that independent valuations should take place at least once every three years.

More Property News, Page 13

The failure to recognise the need for independent valuations is a major drawback of proposals which stress the importance of annual revaluations—"to be displayed prominently in accounts"—but which make no recommendation as to wbo should carry out this task.

To be fair a large number of property companies do already carry out regular external valuations which are incorporated in accounts. Others however are more relnctant to display their wares and prefer to keep properties in their books at cost or valuations many years out of date.

For example the last report and accounts of Warnford Estates showed properties incorporated in the company's hooks at £7.5m at either cost or 1961 valuations, compared with a directors' estimate elsewhere in the accounts that "properties owned by the Group and its investments in associated companies were likely to be worth not less than £28m."

Other companies which have been criticised for incorporating less than up-to-date property valuations in their accounts include: Allnatt London Properties with property investments incorporated in their last accounts at 1962 valuations or cost; Town and City which last had a professional valuation in March 1973 and Daejan Holdings which incorporates its investment properties at either cost or March 1972 values.

Others like Mountview Estates have incorporated freebolds and leaseholds "valned at tbe lower of cost or estimated realisable value." Other companies have been criticised for incorporating directors' estimates which bear little relation to actual market conditions.

Hammerson Property and Investment Trust because of its very size and influence has perbaps been one of the most criticised. Its valnations have historically been based on directors' estimates: "At the time when it is considered that the particular property has reached a stage of full development, i.e. completion of construction/leasing and/or, finalisation of equity participation."

In the light of some of these situations, and others, it will be interesting to see if there will be any attempt to modify the exposure draft.

Lend Lease seeks UK backing for U.S. venture

MR. Gerardus Dusseldorp, chairman of Lend Lease Corporation, Australia's largest property company, was back in London this week to launch a fresh initiative to persuade UK investors to support his plans for a new U.S. real estate investment trust.

The vehicle earmarked for the new investment trust is International Income Property, established by Lend Lease in 1977 and in which the Australian company presently holds a 65 per cent stake.

The company's dilemma is that under U.S. regulations IIP cannot qualify for the special tax status granted investment trusts in that country if affiliated companies hold more than 35 per cent of the stock.

The company's first attempt to lobby British support for the venture failed last year when an offer for sale in the UK of around U.S.$5m of IIP stock failed and left Lend Lease which had underwritten the offer with a further U.S.$4½m of stock it did not need.

Now tha company has decided that if it cannot sell stock in IIP it will give it away. The company is proposing to distribnte a free issue of the U.S. shares as a "bonus dividend" to its UK, Australian and U.S. shareholders.

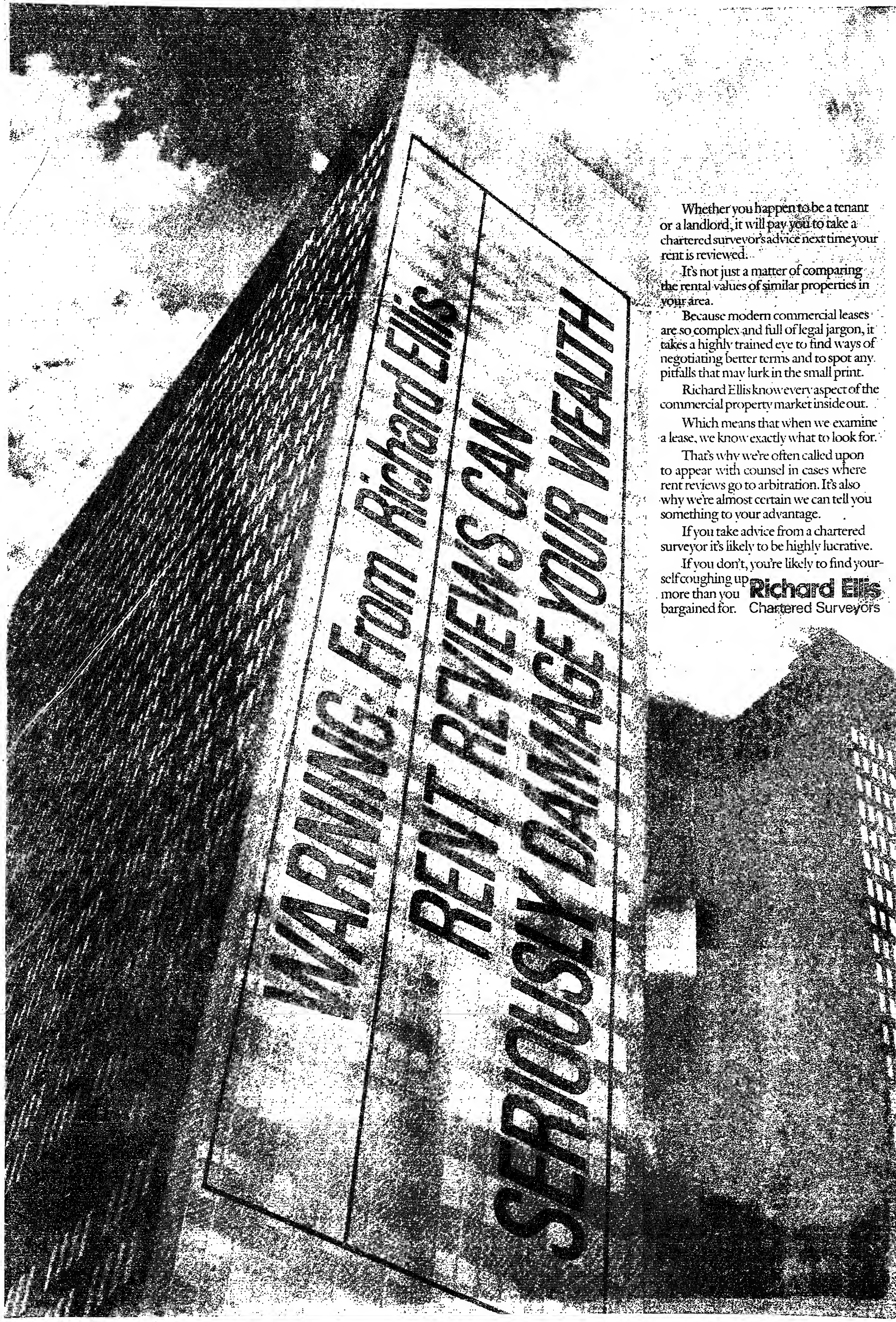
If the distribution is approved at next month's Lend Lease annual meeting it will leave about 30 per cent of IIP shares in British hands with ICI Pension Fund holding a 10 per cent stake. Lend Lease will then be left with a 17 per cent holding as will Mutual Life and Citizen Assurance the other major shareholder.

Mr. Dusseldorp, who has an impressive track record at Lend Lease and at General Property Trust, the Australian property investment trust established by Lend Leasa in 1970, was not disheartened by the difficulties he has faced.

The U.S. concern presently holds properties worth around US$26m including interests in two major shopping developmants—in one of which at Park City, Pennsylvania the Post Office pension fund has a 50 per cent direct interest. Mr. Dusseldorp estimates that distribution from earnings this year could be around 7 per cent net with IIP shares currently trading at aronnd US$10½ on the over-the-counter market in New York.

The group is by no means out of the woods yet although contingency plans have already heen laid to cope with proposed capital gains tax legislation in the U.S. which will affect foreign entities holding property investments.

Tha real test may come next year when, if all goes well, Lend Lease plans to raise around US$10m through a rights issue offer to IIP shareholders. At the moment the British line, according to Mr. Dusseldorp, is cautious hut not opposed to the plans.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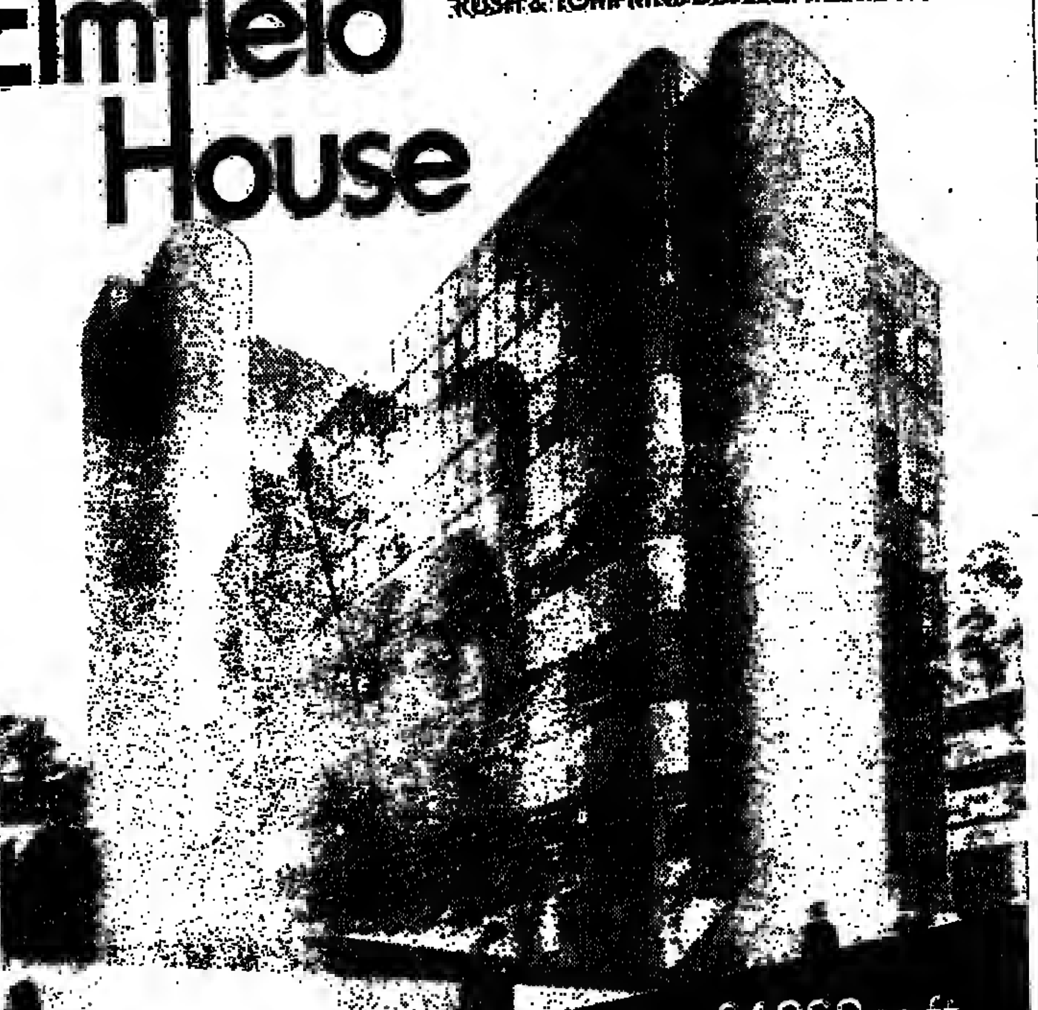

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Property Briefs

Southend backing for Taylor Woodrow

TAYLOR WOODROW Property Company has been granted outline planning permission by Southend Borough Council for a 320,000 sq ft gros office and retail development at the corner of London Road and Southend High Street. The development will provide 186,000 sq ft of office accommodation and 60,000 sq ft of retail space plus car parking for 200 vehicles.

● Regional Properties has let around 33,500 sq ft of central London office accommodation in Wellington House, Strand to Shell UK on a 30-year lease at a commencing rental of £510,000 a year.

● Sun Life Assurance, through its property development subsidiary Artagen Properies is to fund a £1.5m office and shop scheme at 15/19 Church Street, Twickenham. The development to be carried out by Alfred Booth Developments will provide 11,000 sq ft of offices and a ground floor shop, plus two smaller shops and 10 one-bedroom flats.

● Tundra Investments NV has paid almost £2m for two office investments, totalling 18,200 sq ft, at 5/12, Norton Folgate and 6/8, Folgate Street. The overseas investment company acquired the premises, with a current annual rental of £150,000, from a member of the Banque Belge Group which was represented by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks.

● Colonial Mutal Life Assurance Society is thought to have paid just over £1.6m to complete the purchase of the Lombard Trading Estate at the junction of Bugsby Way and Anchor and Hope Lane, Charlton. The 60,000 sq ft estate provides both warehouse and industrial accommodation and is fully let at rents in excess of £2.30 a sq ft. Leavers acted for Colonial Mutual which also funded the development.

● The National Freight Corporation Pension Fund has paid just over £3m to British Land for a portfolio of five freehold and long leasehold shop investments in Epsom, Stratford-upon-Avon, Hitchin, Dorking and Winchester. The shops presently produce an annual rental income of around £135,000. Strutt and Parker represented the pension fund and Conrad Ritblst acted for British Land.

● Shilglade Retail Systems has taken a 1,600 sq ft ground floor unit at the Euston Centre, London, NW1, at an annual rental of £15,000. D. E. and J. Levy acted for the landlord, Euston Properties.

● Around £4m of residential land around Welwyn Garden City has been sold by Hillier Parker May and Rowden as part of the continuing new town sales programme ordered by the Government.

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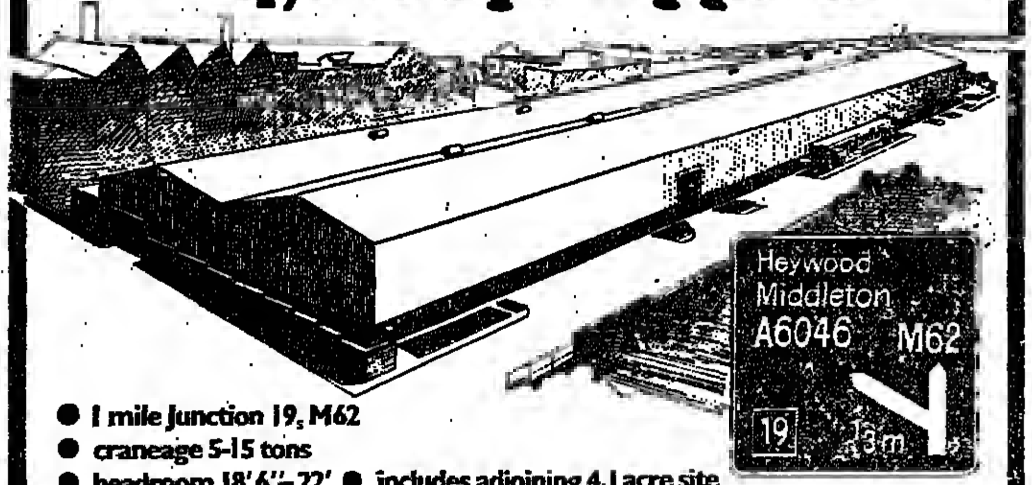

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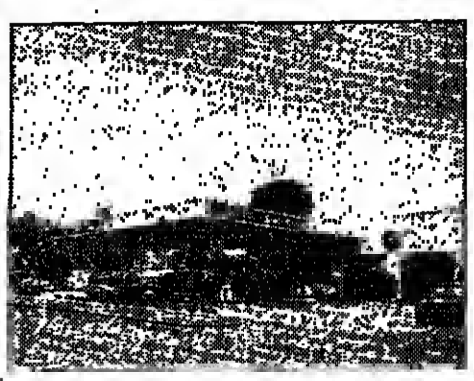

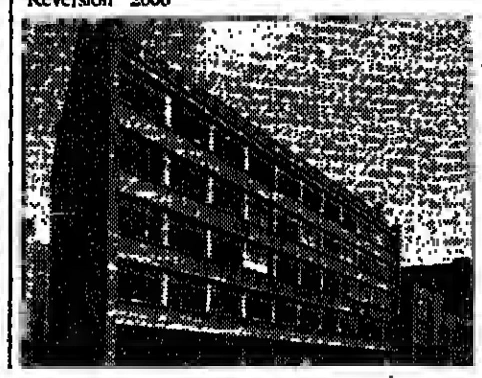

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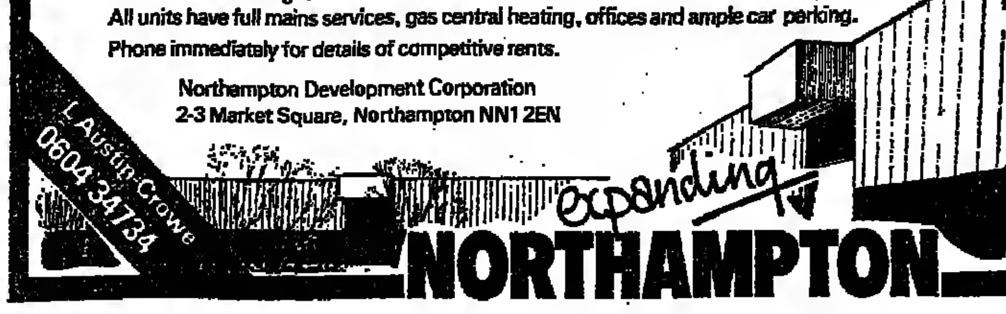

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MANAGEMENT

EDITED BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

The manager as a paragon of all virtues

BY CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

WHAT do the following have in common?

1—A diplomat.
2—A "renaissance man."
3—A decision-maker.
4—A negotiator.
5—A persuader.
6—A consensus-builder.
7—A co-ordinator.
8—A strategic planner.

It may seem far-fetched, but they are all supposedly one and the same person: the Manager of the Future.

The painters of this idealistic (unrealistic?) Identikit picture are a team of 40 leading businessmen and academics, half from the United States and half from Europe. On the Continental side, they include the President of Unilever, the Cbairman of Union Bank of Switzerland and the Dean of INSEAD, the fashionable Fontainebleau business school. From the U.S. come the likes of the President of Goodyear, the Dean of Columbia University's business school and the head of the American Management Association.

Their purpose in throwing down the gauntlet to anyone foolhardy enough to want to be a manager in five, 15 or 30 years' time is to help him—and the business schools which plan to train him—meet the even greater cballenge presented by the ever-accelarating pace of cbange in the business world and society in general.

Their efforts formed part of a three-year international investigation into "management and management edncation in a world of changing expectations," under the joint auspiees of the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD),* and the even more clumsily titled American Assembly of Collegiate Scbools of Business (AACSB),** which exercises supervisory authority over the curricula of U.S. business schools. In all, the project brought together 1,000 business practitioners and tbinkers from all over the world. It waa concluded three months ago.

The results of the whole exercise were reviewed earlier this month at a select meeting of executives and academics under the title of "the Group of Talloires."

Taking its name from a village on the shore of Lake Annecy, in the French Alps, the group met in the cloistered calm of a former monastery. But the recurrent theme of the meeting was one of stress and atrain, aptly encapsulated by one of tbe participants as: "Change, change faster, and still faster again." While the American participants faced this prospect with near-eqnanimity, the Europeans were decidedly unsettled by it.

Terrorism

The "changing expectations" identified by the three-year transatlantic project are daunting indeed, botb for society in general and huainess managers in particular. Just ahout the only thing not covered under the various beadings was the prospect of a Third World War. Included were:

- Changing expectations about the availability of natural resources;
- The "changing international order" (North-South relations, low growth, rising unemployment, etc.);
- Changing social and economic values;
- Cbanging relationsbipa between government, companies and tradea unions;
- Changing expectations of "minority groups" (including women);
- The changing impact of scieoce and technology;
- The growing threat of terrorism and major disasters.

How should management respond to this dauntiog list of growing uncertainties and changing expectations? And what tasks will the manager of tomorrow bave to perform?

Dr. Robert Wade, director of international and governmental affairs for the AACSB, began by quoting a chief executive on the joint project who bad bluntly answered with the single word "everytbing."

To start with the project team concluded that the manager would have to perform far more parallel roles than before. Whereas 10 years ago chief executives were mainly concerned with internal problems, spending perbaps 10-15 per cent of their time on external activities, today some were spending 50-75 per cent of tbeir time on external activities, including public policy and international questions. This was only one measure of the way that political, economic and social forces—coupled with a climate of participation within the corporation—were all profoundly affecting the nature and scope of the manager'a job.

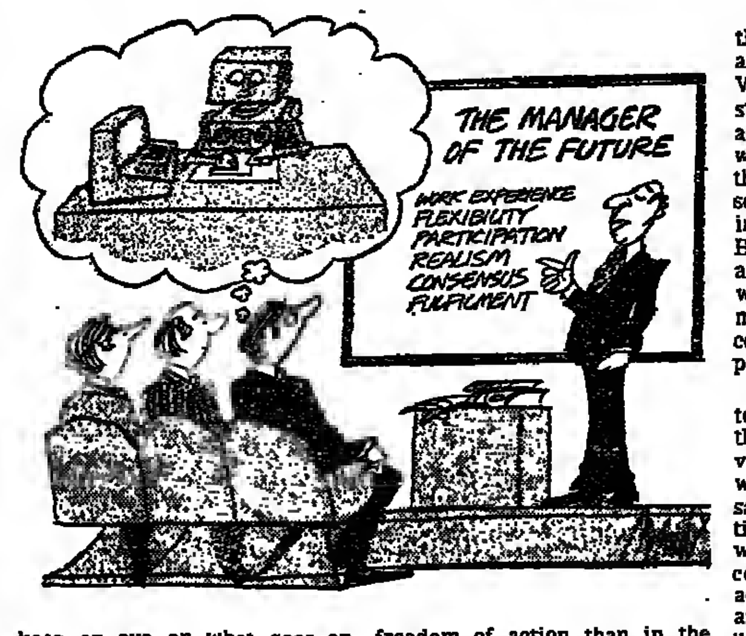
One of the project's participants put it thia way. Tbe manager has traditionally heen thought of as sitting at the centre of a circle, directing all the various activities of the organisation from within it; today be aits on the periphery, on its edge, dealing with the outside world while trying to keep an eye on what goes on inside the circle.

"For one thing, government control and regulation have been growing constantly," Dr. Wade reported. Not even the resurgence of conservatism in Britain, the U.S., and elsewhere was thought likely to turn the tide.

"In addition to dealing with governments, chief executive officers are spending more and more time dealing with unions, financial institutions, consumer advocates, and a sceptical public. Their success or failure in dealing with these gronps may well affect and determine the overall success or failure of their companies."

The project's participants also thought that the manager of the future will have far less freedom of action than in the past, Dr. Wade continued. Since the organisation of the future would not he pyramidal or hierarchical, as in tbe past, the common view of the manager as exposed to two sets of pressures—one from above for economic performance and the other from below, resulting from the demands of the employees—would no longer hold. Ratber, the manager of the future would he subject to pressures, demands, and communications coming in from all sides, and at all levels.

The notion of the traditional power figure was also heing replaced hy the notion of a leader working hy consensus through a team. "In other words, the power wielder will become the power broker."



Some of the characteristics of this new kind of management are already fairly clear, Dr. Wade argued. While there will still be concern for the economic and technological factors, there will be much greater concern than in the past for the political, social, and psychological impact of the organisation. Hence the list of eight virtues already cited. The manager would bave to earn his legitimacy and authority—and continually re-earn tbem, the project team suggested.

"The manager will still have to deliver the basic output of the organisation: goods, services, creation of wealth, or whatever you wisb to call it," said Dr. Wade "But in addition, he or she will be dealing with a much wider range of constituencies, doing a halancing act with these constituencies, and doing it all in the face of uncertainty, ambiguity, and sometimes mixed signals."

Another conclusion of the project was tbat managerial commitment and morale would have to be aggressively fostered in the years abead. Several special circumstances related to the problem of morale were identified:

A growing alienation of managers at the middle levels, especially in Europe; concern that managers may be losing zest and enthusiasm for their work; and the growing attraction of non-profit and public institutions for managers, especially the younger ones.

To this long list of would-be attributes, put together by the transatlantic team, the Talloires group added several further points to which the manager of the future would have to respond. They include:

1—The changing career pattern of existing managers, inclnding their increasing tendency to refuse promotion whicb involved moving bouse.

2—The increasing impact of women on the structure and pattern of the company'a workforce.

3—The likelibood that managers would have to adapt to the increasing pace of social and technological cbange by switching careers — not just jobs — as many as four times in their working lives.

4—The importaoce of manpower planning, to cope with the mass of new pressures.

Of tbe many social challenges outlined by tha transatlantic project, the Talloires meeting beoame particularly engrossed in that of the rapid change in social and economic values, which they felt was insufficiently recognised by most managers. Thougb not all in such high-flown terms, most of the participants echoed Dr. Wade's view that "these changes have significant implications for the puritan work ethic, the growth ethic and the profit ethic." They also have crucial implications for the organisation of business enterprises, with decentralisation of power only one of the possible consequences.

Dr. Wade emphasised in particular the following trends: a growing concern with work as a source of creative fulfilment, not just a source of income; a growing demand for flexibility in personal life and at work; and increasing pressure for participation in corporate and social decision-making.

As for the prospect of changing North-South relations, and a slump in trade between industrialised countries suffering from low growth and bigh unemployment, most of the Talloires participants felt "disorder" was more appropriate than the official term, "new international order."

They were equally foxed hy the question of cbanging expectations about the availability of natural resources.

Euphemistic

The fourth issue dealt with hy the transatlantic team covered relationships between the various institutions in society: government, business companies and the trade unions. While governments would feel under pressure to involve themselves more in industry, the project suggested, there was considerable—and probably growing—public disencbantment with government intervention and regulation. Equally, the public was disenchanted with both big business and the trade uniona.

Issue five dealt with what the Americans call "minority groups"—wbich is wbat the Europeans, with their distaste for eupbemistic jargon, prefer to call women, young people, blacks, pensioners, etc. Dr. Wade told the Talloires meeting that the project members were convinced the expectations and demands of all these groups would continue to grow, and that society would feel an increasing obligation to them.

Sixth—refreshingly low after the incessant microprocessor mania of the last few years—came the impact of science and tecbnology on production and employment.

Seventh came the need to devise new arrangements to protect companies and society against nuclear and other accidents, and terrorist threats. And last was the need for a global, interdisciplioary approach whicb allowed managers to see the interaction of the other issues.

Not content to leave the Talloires group reeling from this onslaught of challenges, Dr. Wade went on to sommarise the team's recommendations for cbanges in management education. They included:

- To be ready to handle change, both io society at large and in the menagerial world, atudents must be educated as specialists and generalists, not one or the other, but both;
- More emphasis must be placed on "non-cognitive" (behavioural) skills and training (for example, "interpersonal skills," communications, negotiations.);
- Tbe business environment/public policy dimension and the international dimension of the husiness scbool curriculum must be given additional emphasis;
- Work experience and life-long education need to he seen more as an integrated wbole.

Readers of these unsettling inventories may not take long to ask the obvious question: if society and organisations are changing as fast as Dr. Wade suggests, how can he tell that his conceptioo of the manager of the future will be correct when, as they say (to coin a common cliche) "the Future is Now"?

Dr. Wade went some way towards tendering a reply by reporting the project team's warning that the future will come whether it is planned or not, and that projecting and planning "are the hest way we bave . . . yet devised to cope with the problems of cbange."

This did not mean that it was still possible to try and predict with certainty wbat will happen, in order to adapt to it ahead of time, he empbasised. But it did mean trying to understand a range of future possibilities, in order both to influence them and to develop the flexibility needed to meet them. Forecasting is dead, in other words, but Long Live Forecasting.

*EFMD, 20 Place Stephanie, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. 02-5121692.

**AACSB, 1755 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 320, Washington DC, 20036, USA. Tel. 202-483-0400.

Promoting financial prudence

THERE IS a small, but growing, body of opinion that "financial men" are gaining too strong a grip on many big company managements, and that they are stifling entrepreneurial flair and technical innovation.

For the medium- and smaller-sized company, however, it is quite possibly finance that is one of the weaker management skills, after technical and marketing ability. Should such companies worry overmuch about this or rely on an ability to improvise in overcoming adverse trends?

According to a new publication, *Profit and cash flow forecasting*, from Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, if, in the current economic climate, businesses do not attempt to forecast both profits and cash requirements, they are pntting their survival in jeopardy.

As a financing institution ICFC has had understandable preoccupation with money controls. But the book does not attempt to moralise in the sense of insisting, for example, on specific debt/equity ratios. Rather, it promotes the concept of financial prudence and provides the tools for a company to interpret that as it will.

The book is in part a straightforward working manual, with a series of schedules that a company can use to produce breakdowns on sales, cost of sales, overheads, productive capacity and a variety of otber factors in drawing up forecasts of profit, cash flow and balance sheets.

The point is stressed time and again that a forecast is not just a means of preparing a picture, but tbat it sbould be used as a hasis for action, particularly if something should bappen to upset the forecast trading pattern. Indeed the author, Jeremy Prescott at ICFC's Manchester office, suggests tbat it is a good idea to prepare contingency plans in advance for, say, a shortfall in sales or a capital overspend.

Many of tbe suggestions made for drawing up check lists—such as the need to look at the trend of sales, and try to assess the effects of competition when establishing a sales forecast—seem, on reflection, rather obvious. But it is surprising how many small businessmen in particular let sucb things ride when they are grappling with day to day pressures.

While the author refrains from moralising, he does reiterate one particular point several times. Any business able to produce a history of good forecasting will increase the confidence of its financial backers. In other words, ICFC is giving fair warning of what it looks for if someone knocks on its door for cash.

Profit and cash flow forecasting, by Jeremy Prescott. Available free from ICFC, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1.

Nicholas Leslie

Technical News

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND ALAN CANE

● COMMUNICATIONS

More steps towards electronic mail

ONE OF the more imaginative steps towards "electronic mail," communications based on computer networks, was recently unveiled in Paris.

Group 800, a Swiss-hased company whicb bas already introduced the toll-free telephone service to Europe, announced at Sicob, the French office equipment exhibition, that it agreed with Radio-Suisse and the Computer Corporation of America to market a form of electronic mail on an international basis.

Named "Data Mail," tbe service makes use of the computer's memory as an electronic mailbox, with telepbone lines as the means of delivery.

The system is based on the Comet electronic mailbox developed and operated in the U.S. by the Computer Corporation of America. "Data Mail" combines the software developed on the Comet system with the central computers of Radio Suisse.

The system enables subscribers to receive, prepare, edit, send, file and retrieve messages anywhere they bave access to a telephone.

All that is needed is a small, portable computer terminal whicb can be linked to the telephone handset through an acoustic coupler.

The user simply logs into the system which tells him or her whether there are any messages waiting in the computer memory, and makes it possible for the user to type in messages and despatch them to the recipients. The messages sit in the central computer memory until tbe recipient logs in.

Toll-free telephoning is a system established by Service 800 where calls placed to subscribers' numbers in overseas cities are answered automatically and simultaneously diverted over the public switched network to where the suhscriber wisbes to receive the call. The caller pays local call charges; the suhscriber pays the international portion at direct dial tariff rates. Obviously "Data Mail" and toll-free telephoning are natural partners.

The cost of the service involves a fixed charge of 100 Swiss francs together with a computer usage charge and the telephone line charge. Service 800 said this week thet for messages of over half an A4 page in length, and prepared using cassette or diskette, the costs would he much lower than conventional telex.

Tbe Post Office believes, however, that while there is a place for the service, costs mean it will not harm the telex market. Service 800 is on 01-486 1648.

● AUTOMATION

Controls the machine sequence

A PROGRAMMABLE controller just announced by Cincinnati Milacron—the MaxiMiser—is intended for the dedicated control of macbioes or mechanisms which would normally employ relay logic and timers.

Programming can be carried out by anyone conversant with ladder diagram notation, and is performed on a separate programming / diagnostic unit which plugs into the controller.

Typical applications will be in the sequential control of plastics moulding and pressure die casting machines, machining installations such as transfer lines and in any other process where a logical sequence of operations is involved.

Programmed data is held in non volatile electrically alterable read only memory (EAROM) and in operation the unit sequentially scans the program and provides signals in accordance with the internal logic decisions and the present state of the inpnt signals and timers.

Unlike relays and timers, the controller can be quite easily re-programmed for a complete change of function and the program can be changed to accommodate any process variation that bas to be incorporated.

Thus, the control system does not form an integral part of the machine with which it is associated and can be switched to other machines in other applications.

It can provide a virtually unlimited number of usable contacts per relay and a large number of contacts in series can also be deployed. Timings can range from 0.05 to 100 seconds.

Basic memory is 1000 16-bit words and this can be expanded in increments of 1000 to a maximum of 4000 words.

Up to 20 input/output modules are supplied as standard, each accepting up to 16 input signals and eight outputs. More are possible. Acceptable signals levels are 12 to 24 V DC or 90 to 130 V AC.

● MEDICAL ENGINEERING

First aid for heart victims

FIRST AIDERS today tackle victims of beart attacks armed only with their training and skills in heart massage and artificial respiration.

Now a new device from the U.S., which bas already excited some interest from heart specialists in this country, promises to take at least some of the danger out of the first few seconds of the attack.

Called "Heart Aid," the device is basically an automatic and portable resuscitator—designed to be used by trained first aiders. it makes decisions automatically that would normally be taken by beart specialists in an intensive care unit.

Heart attacks can result in two conditions, total collapse of the heart requiring drastic measures if tbe victim is to be saved, or fibrillation, wben the heart loses its rbythm totally and undergoes uncontrolled spasmodic contractions—possibly running at more than 200 a minute.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation—heart massage and artificial respiration, something all first aiders are taught, keeps the blood flowing hut only a substantial electrical shock can stop tbe heart fibrillating—and the quicker that can he accomplished, the better the victim's cbances of recovery.

"Heart Aid" is an electric shock macbine coupled to sensitive sensors to monitor the victim's condition. One electrode with a sensor wbich can detect breathing and beart rate is applied to the back of the victim's throat: tbe other electrode is applied to abdomen.

If the throat sensor fails to detect breathing and the heart is fibrillating, the device gives the first aider a seven second warning before delivering an electric shock.

If breathing is absent and the heart rate (the ventricular rate) is less than 25 a minute, the machine applies a pacing rbythm of shocks to stabilise the heart.

If tbe victim is breathing, the circuits are so arranged tbat shocks cannot be delivered; and the machine monitors the victim's condition.

The device costs £3,450 from the UK distributors, British Emerson Medical Electronics of London (01-580 3667), but the price include maintenance and training in the use of the machine for eight people.

Some 250 machines have already been sold in the U.S. and the first response from authorities in the UK has been cautious hut good.

● SEMICONDUCTORS

Lightening the software burden

IF COMPANIES are to take advantage of electronics in the future, semiconductor manufacturers will bave to design more of the software into the silicon chips. This is the opinion of Dr. Robert Noyce, vice-chairman of Intel and one of the pioneers in semiconductor technology.

Speaking at a seminar in London, Dr. Noyce said tbat wbile the cost of making silicon chips was continuing to fall, programming these complex circuits were becoming more expensive. Also, the general shortage of programmers in industry coupled with the length of time it takes to produce software meant that the application of electronics could grow no faster tban the number of programmers a company bad.

During the 1980s, semiconductor designers will be developing circuits in wbich the nucleus of a computer operating system—now produced as software—will be already on a chip. This will allow designers to produce working systems more easily and faster, using higb level languages.

Dr. Noyce said that this would reduce the "software burden" by a factor of 10 to one.

The outlook for the semiconductor industry as a wbole is encouraging according to Dr. Noyce. It will be one of the few indnstries whicb will grow substantially in the 1980s.

The chief areas of growth will be in computers, automotive electronics and robotics. But few new semiconductor companies will appear in the decade to serve the broad market for general semiconductor circuits.

Dr. Noyce said that the investment necessary to set up a suitable factory had risen too steeply. In the early 1970s, the cost of a wafer fabrication plant to make circuits was $4m. Last year the cost had risen to $17m and plants installed in the early 1980s will be around $28m.

ELAINE WILLIAMS

● LIGHTING

Control of street lamps

IN ONE respect the now widespread application of photocells to lamp switching on major roads is self-defeating in that they do not come on in heavy rain, snow or fog because the light level usually does not become low enough.

Now, Bath company Horstmann Engineering Products has attacked the problem with a system called RLSS2 wbich allows police or traffic authorities to switch such lamps on or off in predetermined ways from a convenient control point.

The system has heen developed for tbe Department of the Environment and is expected to be extensively installed in many parts of the country where unusual weather conditions are prone to occur. First installations will be on a 30-mile section of the new M25 in Hertfordshire, but the system can also be retrofitted to existing roads.

Horstmann has replaced the normal photocell with a special cell whicb bas a built-in integrated circuit able to accept overriding control signals from elsewhere.

Where a standard MCS (motorway communications system) is in use, patrol cars will be able to radio a terminal operator at traffic headquarters wbo will be able to simply enter the word "fog" on his keyboard. This will result in special additional signals being sent along the telemetry cables and from receiving, roadside cabinets some pulse signals will he seot to the lamps; since no signal cables exist for this purpose, use is made of the supplying mains cables.

The photocell "cbip" will accept the signal and then switch the lamp on or off accordingly.

LOMBARD

Exploiting our skills

BY DAVID FISHLOCK

EVERYONE knows that Britain once led the world in radio-astronomy because of its pioneering radio-telescope at Jodrell Bank. But that was back in the Fifties. Fewer know that as a direct result British industry led the world in the Sixties with its earth stations modelled on Jodrell Bank which picked up the whisperings of the first satellites.

Like so many other markets for novel products of high-technology the one for large earth stations has long been lost to the Americans and the Japanese. It wasn't a case of Britain failing to develop a scientific invention, but of Britain failing to mount a coherent industrial policy capable of sustaining from profits the unending input of cash and skills advanced technology demands.

Indispensable

On a grander scale Rolls-Royce made precisely the same mistake in the Sixties. It gravely under-estimated the financial and other resources needed to translate a brilliant new three-shaft concept of aero-engine design into the RB-211. A decade later it can point to 700 engines in service—including some in the North Sea—and orders for another 500, with new developments in the pipeline which suggest a production of at least 250 RB-211 engines a year in the early 1980s. Top of its attractions for airlines, Rolls-Royce engineers say, is that they expect to maintain a 4.5 per cent advantage in fuel consumption over all rivals throughout the decade. This fuel economy is a direct result of harnessing high technology; of more advanced materials operated at higher temperatures.

But had Rolls-Royce been a more typical British industrial situation, it would have vanished in 1971. Only the fact that it was an indispensable source of engines for military aircraft, warships and submarines obliged the government to keep it alive as a state-owned organisation.

With publication today of the eighth report from ACARD, the Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development—the body which has replaced the office of the government's chief scientific adviser—it is becoming increasingly clear that the development gap from which Britain is so often said to be suffering is in a significantly different place from the one normally perceived.

The truly serious gap is not that due to the reluctance of British scientists, engineers, inventors to launch into manufacture with their ideas. The real gap is far more wasteful of resources. It is the hiatus left when companies launch themselves enthusiastically upon the neck of some new technology, only to come a cropper because they failed to realise how much it would cost. It is a post-development gap.

EMI is a classic example of a company which, armed not only with a brilliant invention but with an unusually realistic estimate of what it might cost to launch the new product, still under-estimated the eventual scale of effort required to compete with U.S. industry.

The latest ACARD study surveys "information technology," a vast tract of fast-advancing technology embracing telephones and telecommunications, video systems and word processors—and of course the ubiquitous computer which now lurks behind each one. It finds a marvellously innovative picture in Britain, with such projects as Prestel and System X, and a strong presence in "software," the craft of computer programming which determines whether and how the new technology works.

But ACARD also finds ample evidence of post-development gaps yawning wide in the 80s. It finds too many British companies competing in every promising sector; too many "sponsoring" ministries and departments, each with its own idiosyncratic requirements, each encouraging someone to tailor the innovation precisely to its want.

ACARD's urgent message is that if the Thatcher Government expects industry to win and hold a significant slice of the looming £10bn-a-year world market for information technology, a single department of government must orchestrate the national effort. This probably means that the BBC, police, armed forces, Post Office, hospitals, schools—even the taxmen—must all defer to the technological choices of the Department of Industry.

Where The Good Life is a tough life

BY ANTHONY MORETON, REGIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

WHEN THE comedy series *The Good Life* was launched on television a few years ago it featured a couple who decided to opt out of the rat race of office life and turn their back garden into a self-sufficient smallholding.

The rhubarb was turned into wine, the eggs were sold, the cabbages eaten and, though the neighbours were somewhat sceptical, it was all a very jolly affair interspersed with the occasional financial hang-ups.

The good life, in real life, is very different. The good life, in reality, is a tough life. It is a life in which errors are expensive, the bank manager is an important figure, and money has to be borrowed and paid for at 20 per cent.

Even if the tangible returns are low the intangible rewards of doing your own thing are still sufficiently high to attract people to take a risk. Nowhere is this more evident than around Lampeter in West Wales where scores, perhaps hundreds of English, have taken a chance on doing something different.

English immigrants are "thick on the ground" according to Nigel James, local branch secretary of the Farmers Union of Wales. Not all the incomers, though, are Good Lifers. Many have moved from farms in England.

Lampeter is a very Welsh part of Wales. Two out of every three local people speak Welsh as their first language.

Newcomers entering this environment frequently experience a culture shock; the chapel is still a potent force, even if a declining one. In return, they are influencing the neighbourhood. Half the children in some of the primary schools are the sons and daughters of English people. English is now the language of the playground.

The newcomers are not disliked. Bessie Williams, a farmer's wife who works as a secretary in Lampeter, says: "There is no resentment here, though we don't like the hippies. The English are more reserved than we are, but so long as they join in things they are very welcome."

It is the hippies who inspire resentment. "Come into Lampeter on a Thursday and it looks like Kabul around the Social Security office," says Hefin Davies of Evans Brothers, a local estate agent.

One of those who made the switch from urban to rural life six years ago is Peter Segger, now 34. He had his own business marketing scallops, which he had started after working for some years for Associated Fisheries.

He chose a small, run-down smallholding, Blaen Camel, at Cilcennin, about eight miles out of Lampeter. He has turned it into a market garden producing tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, vegetables and wheat, all organically grown.

Patrick Holden, aged 29, and his wife Lou arrived at Bwlch Wernen Fawr farm at Llwyn y Groes, also outside Lampeter,

AROUND BRITAIN

LAMPETER

in 1973, a year earlier than Peter Segger. They had come from the south-east of England with another couple whose parents had bought the farm. They also intended to farm organically.

But communal life did not work out as expected. The other couple left, the farm was put back on the market and by a stroke of luck bought by someone who gave them a tenancy agreement. They now have protection for life.

"I wouldn't have changed it, but it has been very hard. In the early days something seemed to go wrong if I even went away for half a day. I would almost dread coming back," he says.

"Those days have gone and things are a lot better. But I shall have an overdraft of £20,000 with the bank, and that is costing me about £4,000 a year. I'm just about to reduce it as I'm getting a loan of £8,000 from someone who believes in what we're *doing*, and she's only charging 10 per cent."

What Peter Segger has found is that while West Walians do not necessarily go for organically grown vegetables they do appreciate taste and quality. "It's very difficult getting fresh vegetables around here. This is dairy country and so there's not much local produce. Most fruit and vegetables come from London, but ours is locally grown and its appearance is good. That's what people like."

Mr. Segger has been able to cushion his initial costs with the capital he had from selling his business. The Holdens admit life has been difficult. "We have had a considerable struggle since we came. This was due to my inexperience and to the lack of initial capital.

"But it has been worth it and things are coming right. I am not a crank nor are any of us who farm organically. We believe that residual pesticides and herbicides, which are so commonly used, get into the food chain and then into man. Consumers are beginning to realise this."

It would be difficult to find a greater contrast between English incomers like the Holdens and Seggers and Melfyn Evans, who is as near to being a typical Cardiganshire hill farmer as you are likely to find. He has farmed Tyn Coed, above the village of Cellan, some six miles out of Lampeter, all his life, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

He is only really at home in Welsh, speaking English carefully and searching for some words, such as goat or offal, with the help of his wife Margaret. The two of them farm the 175 acres of Tyn Coed without any outside help.

Merfyn Evans is now 54 and he owns Tyn Coed. His father bought it for £7,000 back in 1963 and he estimates, perhaps conservatively, that it must now be worth between £80,000 and £100,000. He may be rich in capital but it is still a difficult way to earn a living. In his 54 years he has never been on holiday. "I'm not saying I haven't had the occasional day away but I've never had a holiday."

He moved out of dairying two years ago when the Milk Marketing Board refused to come up the road and collect from him. Now he has 250 sheep and 40 cows and calves. "It is very hard, especially at haymaking time. Sometimes when I hear what happens at Leyland I wish I were there." His voice trails away, but you know he does not really mean it.

As a result of moving out of milk Mr. Evans has what the city slicker would call a cash-flow problem. "When you're in milk the cheque comes through regularly, 12 times a year. The trouble with beef and sheep is that you only get paid at market time or when the subsidy comes in January. You never know from week to week what you've got coming in and what you can spend."

It is commonly asserted that the Welsh dislike the English "invaders" but this is not borne out by Melfyn Evans nor by anyone else I spoke to in Lampeter. "All the English I have met are very nice," he says. "They have come here and farmed well. The English are not like us, they are more reserved. But when you get through to them they are very nice, very kind.

"They will help you, just as any Welsh farmer will." You can't be more fair-minded than that.

Bustomi's speed a key factor

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

THE SUBSEQUENT Irish Sweeps Derby winner Tyrnavos, landed the Mornington Stakes (then the Roberre Trophy), on the same afternoon at Ascot a year ago, and everything points to the race again proving informative. This time the runners include Bustomi, King's General, Centurius, and Ganimede

There seems little doubt that the West Ilsley representative, Bustomi, and Guy Harwood's King's General will head the market. Both won in the style of high class colts in notching *three lengths victories recently.*

Bustomi achieved his success when cutting out all the running to beat Royal Heritage in York's Sanction Stakes, while King's General came from some way off to outclass Junta and nine others in the Rhine and Moselle Stakes at Goodwood eight days later.

Although the Rhine and Moselle prize was a slightly more valuable one than that for the Sanction Stakes, Bustomi almost certainly encountered stiffer opposition at York. However, the ground there was riding fast and it is yet to be seen whether Bustomi will prove equally effective on going which will be on the soft side of good, given a further heavy shower or two.

Centurius, a full brother to Grundy, caught many an eye when holding off all but Kalaglow in Sandown's Viewsport Stakes over today's seven furlong trip. A progressive though still backward colt, Centurius is likely to be sent for home some way out by Walter Swinburne.

Ganimede, for whom Luca Cumani has secured the services of Lester Piggot, sprang something of a surprise at Yarmouth a month ago when beating Piggot's mount, Empress Carlotta after drifting from 7-2 to twice those odds. However, there was no semblance of a fluke about that success and he, too, has plenty of improvement in him.

In what should prove a fascinating race, I am content to rely on the speed and experience of Bustomi.

ASCOT

2.15—Hearth
2.45—Mister Lucky
3.15—*Miss Raffles***
3.50—St. Terramar*
4.20—Bustomi
4.50—Queen of Persia

REDCAR

2.30—Orkney Annie
3.00—Highcroft***
4.00—Song Sung Blue

TV/Radio

BBC 1

† Indicates programme in black and white

6.40-7.55 am Open University (Ultra high frequency only). 9.05 For Schools, Colleges. 11.25 You and Me. 11.40 For Schools, Colleges. 12.45 pm News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. 1.45 Bod. 2.02 For Schools, Colleges. 3.20 Ddeng Mlynedd Yn Ol—Neu Fwy: Ten Years Ago—or More. 3.53 Regional News for England (except London). 3.55 Play School Story. 4.20 Laurel and Hardy cartoon. 4.25 Seeing Stars with Terry Wogan. 4.45 Heyyy, It's The King. 4.55 Crackerjack.

5.40 News.
5.55 Nationwide (London and South-East only).
6.20 Nationwide.
6.45 Sportswide.
7.00 Bugs Bunny.
7.05 It's a Knockout.
8.20 Terry and June.
8.50 Points of View.
9.00 News.
9.25 Starsky and Hutch.
10.15 Badminton (London and South-East only).
10.45 News Headlines.
†10.50 The Late Film: Alfred Hitchcock's "Saboteur" starring Robert Cummings.

All Regions as BBC 1 except as follows:—

BBC Cymru/Wales—1.45-2.00 pm Cath Drwy'r Siop. 2.02-2.22 I Ysgolion. Hwnt Ac Yma. 4.45 Living Legends. 5.15-5.40 Telifant. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 7.00 Heddiw. 7.25 Ddeng Mlynedd Yn Ol—Neu Fwy. 7.55-8.20 Angels. 10.15 Week In Week Out. 11.05 News for Wales. †11.06-12.24 am Festival of Welsh Films: "The Proud Valley," starring Paul Robeson.

Scotland—11.00-11.20 am For Schools. 12.40-12.45 pm The Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 10.15 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.45-10.50 News for Scotland: National News.

Northern Ireland—5.55-6.20 pm Scene Around Six. 10.15 Gallery. 10.45-10.50 News for Northern Ireland. 12.40 am News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

England—5.55-6.20 pm Look East (Norwich); Look North (Leeds, Newcastle); Look North-West (Manchester); Midlands Today (Birmingham); Points West (Bristol); South Today (Southampton); Spotlight South-West (Plymouth). 10.15-10.45 pm East (Norwich) Weekend; Midlands (Birmingham) The Welfare Show; North (Leeds) The Jews of Leeds—an Album of Memories; North-East (Newcastle) Coast to Coast; North-West (Manchester) Country Concerns; South (Southampton) More Ways Than One; South-West (Plymouth) Brainwave; West (Bristol) The Friars Move On.

BBC 2

6.40-7.55 am Open University.
11.00 Play School (as BBC 1 3.55 pm).
2.00 pm Racing from Ascot and International Badminton (The Friends' Provident Masters Tournament).
4.50-5.40 and 6.05-6.55 Open University.
6.55 Manimals.
7.25 Mid-evening News.
7.35 Gardeners' World.
8.00 Young Musicians of Europe.
9.00 Escape.
9.50 Ronnie Prophet Entertains.
10.25 The Brandenburg Concertos by J. S. Bach.
10.45 Newsnight examines the career of Tony Benn.
11.30 Friday Night . . . Saturday Morning with Tim Rice.

LONDON

9.30 am Schools Programmes. 12.00 A Handful of Songs. 12.10 pm Once Upon a Time. 12.30 Home Made for the Home. 1.00 News plus FT Index. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 For Maddie With Love. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Golf: The Bob Hope British Classic from the RAC Country Club Epsom. 4.15 The Danedyke Mystery. 4.45 Animals in Action. 5.15 Emmerdale Farm.

5.45 News.
6.00 Thames News.
6.30 Thames Sport.
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right.
7.30 The Incredible Hulk.
8.30 Holding the Fort.
9.00 The Gentle Touch.
10.00 News.
10.30 Benson.
11.00 Seven Ages.
11.45 Golf.
12.15 am Close: Personal choice with Sandy Gall.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

1.20 pm Anglia News. 6.00 About Anglia. 10.30 Digger From the Deep. 11.00 Golf. 11.30 Soap. 12.00 Friday Late Film: "Cry Rape." 1.20 am At the End of the Day.

ATV

1.20 pm ATV News. 5.15 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 ATV Today. 10.30 WKRP in Cincinnati. 11.00 Golf Highlights (Bob Hope British Classic). 11.30 ATV News. 11.35 The Best of British: "The Knack . . . And How To Get It."

BORDER

1.20 pm Border News. 5.15 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00 Lookaround Friday. 5.30 Superstar Profile. 7.30 A Man Called Sloane. 10.30 Issue. 11.00 Golf (Bob Hope British Classic). 11.30 Vegas. 12.30 am Border News Summary.

CHANNEL

1.20 pm Channel Lunchtime News, What's On Where, and Weather. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.30 What's On Where. 6.35 Encore. 7.30 A Man Called Sloane. 10.28 Channel Late News. 10.34 Talk of the Town (Minehead). 11.30 Golf. 12.25 am News and Weather in French.

GRAMPIAN

9.25 am First Thing. 1.20 pm North News. 6.00 North Tonight—including Sportscall. 10.30 Superstar Profile. 11.00 Golf (Bob Hope British Classic highlights). 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 The New Avengers. 12.30 am North Headlines and Road Report.

GRANADA

1.20 pm Granada Reports. 5.15 Mr. and Mrs. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30 Kick Off. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Golf. 11.30 The Continental: Virna Lisi (in "Casanova 70."

HTV

1.20 pm HTV News. 5.15 Spiderman. 6.00 Report West. 6.30 WKRP in Cincinnati. 7.30 Tenspeed and Brown Shoe. 10.28 HTV News. 10.30 Report Extra. 11.00 Golf highlights (Bob Hope British Classic). 11.30 Doctors' Private Lives.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV West/HTV General Service except: 5.35-6.50 am Gymru. 12.00-12.10 pm Cei Cocos. 4.15 Yr Rhewgell Y Gogledd. 4.45-5.15 Cisgopaboard. 6.00 Y Dydd. 5.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.30-11.00 Enterprise.

SCOTTISH

1.20 pm News Headlines and Road and Weather Report. 5.15 Mork and Mindy. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.25 Sports Extra. 6.45 Hear Here. 10.30 Open to Question. 11.00 Golf Highlights. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 SWAT.

SOUTHERN

1.20 pm Southern News. 5.15 Mr. and Mrs. 6.00 Day By Day. 5.00 Scene South-East (South-East Area only). 5.30 Tell Me Another. 10.35 The America's Cup Challenge. 11.35 Benson. 12.05 pm Golf Highlights.

TYNE TEES

9.20 am The Good Word. 9.25 North-East News. 1.20 pm North-East News and Lookaround. 5.15 Happy Days. 6.00 North-East News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.25 Northern Life. 10.30 North-East News. 10.32 Film of the Week: "Fright," starring Honor Blackman. 12.00 Golf (Bob Hope British Classic). 12.30 am Countryside Christian.

ULSTER

1.20 pm Lunchtime. 4.13 Ulster News. 5.15 Happy Days. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 10.29 Ulster Weather. 10.30 Witness. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.00 Golf Highlights (Bob Hope British Classic). 11.30 Fireside Theatre. 12.25 am Bedtime.

WESTWARD

12.27 pm Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20 Westward News Headlines. 6.00 Westward Diary. 7.30 A Man Called Sloane. 10.31 Westward Late News. 10.34 Talk of the Town (Minehead). 11.00 Golf Highlights. 11.30 Musical Special. 12.25 am Faith For Life. 12.30 West Country Weather and Shipping Forecast.

YORKSHIRE

1.20 pm Calendar News. 5.15 Against the Wind. 6.00 Calendar (Emley Moor and Belmont editions). 6.30 Calendar Sport. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Golf Highlights. 11.30 The Friday Night Film: "Melvin Purvis—G Man."

RADIO 1

(S) Stereophonic broadcast
‡ Medium Wave

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Dave Lee Travis. 8.32 Simon Bates with The Golden Hour—part 1. 10.32 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.32 Simon Bates with the Golden Hour—part 2. 3.32 Peter Powell. 5.30 Newsbeat. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.31 Anne Nightingale. 10.02-12.00 The Friday Rock Show (S).

RADIO 2

5.00 am News Summary. 5.03 Steve Jones (S). 7.32 Terry Wogan (S). 10.03 Jimmy Young (S). 12.03 pm David Hamilton (S). 2.03 Ed Stewart's *Request Show* (S) including Racing from Ascot. 4.03 Much More Music (S). 6.03 John Dunn (S). 8.02 Bern Dance in the Radio 2 Ballroom (S). 8.45 Friday Night Is Music Night (S). 9.55 Sports Desk. 10.02 Dad's Army. 10.30 The Organist Entertains. 11.02 Brian Matthew with Round Midnight, including 12.00 News. 2.02-5.00 am You and the Night and the Music (S).

RADIO 3

†6.55 am Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Overture (S). 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Debussy (S). 10.00 A Hello and Goodbye Symphony (S). 11.10 Elizabethan String Music (S). 12.05 pm Kurt Sanderling concert, part 1 (S). 1.00 News. 1.05 Concert, part 2 (S). 1.50 Comparing Notes (S). 2.50 Music Making (S). 3.50 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (S). 4.40 At the Court of Frederick the Great (S). 4.55 News. 5.00 Mainly For Pleasure (S) (4 and mono only from 6.20). 6.55 Play It Again. 7.00 Centenary Concert from the Symphony Hall, Boston, U.S., opening the Boston Symphony Orchestra's 100th season, part 1: Bernstein, Mendelssohn (S). 7.45 Escapology (story). 8.05 Centenary Concert, part 2: Bartok (S). 9.00 I Do Like To Be (play) (S). 10.00 One Pair of Ears. 10.15 Heather Harper song recital (S). 11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 Myslivecek (S).

RADIO 4

6.00 am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Shipping Forecast. 6.30 Today, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day; 7.00, 8.00 Today's News; 7.30, 8.30 News Headlines; 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.45 The Best of Bierce. 9.00 News. 9.05 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Feedback. 10.00 News. 10.02 International Assignment. 10.30 Daily Service (S). 10.45 Story Time. 11.00 News. 11.05 Rome: Has the Tide Turned? 11.50 Natural Selection. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm You and Yours. 12.27 The Year in Question. 12.55 Weather: programme news. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.02 Woman's Hour. 3.00 News. 3.02 Listen With Mother. 3.15 Afternoon Theatre (S). 4.10 Alternative Medicine. 4.40 Preview. 4.45 Short Story. 5.00 PM: News magazine. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather: programme news. 6.00 News. 6.30 Going Places. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Pick of the Week (S). 8.10 Profile. 8.30 Any Questions? 9.15 Letter from America. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.35 Week Ending (S). 11.00 A Book at Bedtime. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 The Archive Auction. 11.45 Friday Treat. 12.00 News.

BBC Radio London

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.30 Rush Hour. 10.03 The Robbie Vincent Telephone Programme. 1.03 pm London Live. 4.30 London News Desk. 5.35 Music on the Move. 7.03 Black Londoners. 8.00 The Hitler Years. 8.30-5.00 am Join Radio 2.

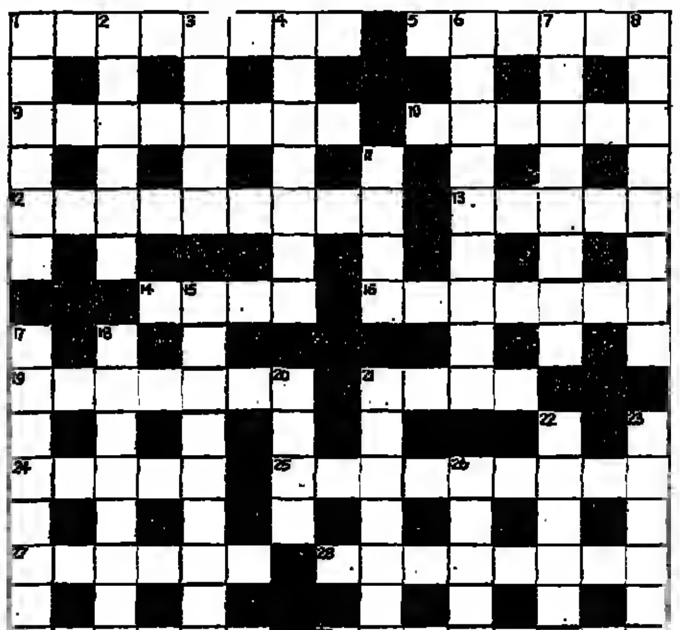
London Broadcasting

6.00 am AM—Bob Holness and Douglas Cameron. 10.00 Brian Hayes. 12.00 LBC Reports. 8.00 pm After Eight. 9.00 *Nightline*. 12.00 LBC Reports Midnight. 12.30 am Decision Makers. 1.00 Night Extra. 4.00 London Rules. 4.30 City Week. 5.00 Morning Music.

Capital Radio

6.00 am Mike Smith's Breakfast Show (S). 5.00 Michael Aspel (S). 12.00 Graham Dene (S). 1.00 pm London Today (S). 1.10 Graham Dene (continued). 3.00 Roger Scott (S). 7.00 London Tonight (S). 8.00 "Chains" with Nicky Horne (S). 11.00 The Best Disco in Town with Greg Edwards (S). 12.00 After Midnight with Richard Allinson (S).

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,384



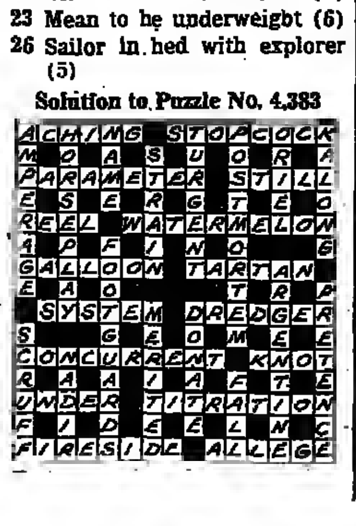
ACROSS

1 Justifiable arrest before end of day corrected transcription (4, 4)
5 Youngster involved in cut-throat operation (6)
9 Teach firm to produce plaything (for father?) (5, 3)
10 Strengthened bachelor ran fast (6)
12 Unfair on players covering the front of the house (5, 4)
13 Run with hothead out of loyalty (5)
14 Dirty self-starter needs lubrication (4)
16 Run into piano one has on flower (7)
19 *Article on prohibition* by academic in desert (7)
21 Job on paper in Washington (4)
24 Worn out old type of car stands on ceremony (5)
25 Way to tell a joke (9)
27 On return the Spanish stay fit for the table (6)
28 Sting one is able to find for defending the city (8)
29 Crazy salary given to young bead (6)
30 Soldiers correspond in the mind (8)

DOWN

1 Tense prospect (6)
2 Flyer whose support melted away (6)
3 Shell company joining northern church (5)
4 Overcome clergyman in bucket (7)
6 Dickensian account of the depression (4, 5)
7 Station coach (8)
8 Bird with leg the colour of beetroot (8)
11 Way artist upset top-liner (4)
15 Eccentric member of friendly society (9)
17 Castle at speed (8)
18 A flair I'm developing as may be well-known (8)
20 Intelligence from all quarters (4)
21 Spend a lot of time crossing (7)
22 Tin church left to scrub (6)
23 Mean to be underweight (6)
26 Sailor in bed with explorer (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 4,383



ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

THEATRES

CINEMAS

ART GALLERIES

THE ARTS

Cinema

A deadly Don Giovanni by GEOFF BROWN

Don Giovanni (A)
Academy Cinema 1
Electric Shadows: 45 Years of Chinese Cinema
National Film Theatre
Dressed to Kill (X)
Odeon Leicester Square
Simon (A) Warner West End

Joseph Losey's film of *Don Giovanni* could certainly never be confused with any theatrical production. While latecomers to opera houses are *still* drifting in and removing their coats to the sound of the overture, we at the cinema are watching a demonstration of glassblowing in a Venetian factory. Once Act One begins we have real, live, beautiful buildings by Andrea Palladio instead of cleverly painted sets, and boats slowly progressing along canals instead of characters spotlit in a vacuum. And we can see them all without binoculars. Opera audiences hear the music of Mozart's masterpieces as it happens, with the sounds of occasional fluffed notes, coughs and dropped handbags. We hear it post-synchronised to the cast's lip movement, with the sounds of footsteps, horse's hoofs, grasshoppers, farmyard hens, torrents of rain and splashing oars. We share this experience in a compact building that resembles an opera house as much as a brown paper bag resembles a box of chocolates. Seat prices are somewhat lower.

Both Losey and the film's instigator, the composer and opera administrator Rolf Liebermann, wanted to make *Don Giovanni* not so much a filmed opera as a film derived from an opera, partly in the hope of democratising the art form. Noble intentions, perhaps, but making a film destined for art-house exhibition is hardly the best way to broaden an audience. And despite all their combined intelligence, their careful attention to both visual and musical matters, the result of—as in so many previous attempts — comes perilously close to achieving the worst of both worlds.

The film lasts three hours (an interval is fortunately provided), and there is certainly *time* enough in *that* span to accustom oneself to a small number of irritants. Subtitles, for instance (it is surely gilding the lily to read "I'm fainting!" while Edda Moser's Donna Anna is not only singing about her condition in full-throated Italian but also crumpling to the ground before our very eyes!). Depending on the audience's standards of musical appreciation, it may also be possible to swallow the variations in sound quality, the poor standards of post-synchronisation and the fluctuating barrage of sound effects. But even three hours is insufficient to accommodate *oneself* to the *rigidity* and aridity of the entire exercise, or the posturing of most of the performers who, like so many stage artistes previously yanked onto the *silver screen*, *still* emote on a scale to shake the chandeliers in the opera house roof. There are two exceptions: the grimaces of Ruggiero Raimondi's Don Giovanni are entirely suited to this furiously diabolical character, who set new standards for profligacy in the eighteenth-century. But the film's real saving grace is undoubtedly Kiri Te Kanawa, a singer of radiant tone and striking beauty, who plays Donna Elvira, Giovanni's poor wife; she alone makes the complete transition from opera to film, combining intensity of emotion with subtlety of expression. And she alone brings a spark of human life to a chilling film, far too fastidiously bedecked with elegantly roving camerawork, frozen tableaux and the traditional bustling extras.

Ruggero Raimondi as 'Don Giovanni'

★

Opera also plays a key part in *Two Stage Sisters*, shown to the press to herald the arrival next Thursday of the National Film Theatre's ambitious selection of Chinese films, enticingly entitled "Electric Shadows" (the film itself can be seen towards the end of the season, on October 26th and November 2nd). The two performers sing and act with a theatre troupe through periods of great economic hardship in the thirties; in the forties, one of them succumbs to the wiles and wealth of a Shanghai opera manager, while the other ploughs ahead working towards a political awakening of the theatre (and herself). After the revolution, in the fifties, the stage sisters are reunited, and the very last scene has the heroine telling her wayward partner, "Let us remould ourselves earnestly and always perform revolutionary operas."

It is an unfortunate line, or at least an unfortunate subtitle, for the film as a whole—produced in 1964 by the Tianma Film Studio in Shanghai just before the Cultural Revolution disrupted all serious artistic activity — displays so little of the threadbare thought and emotion generally encountered in works enforcing a country's official ideology. The NFT programme booklet points out its "rapturous *mise-en-scene*"; the valuable BFI Dossier produced to accompany the season (priced at £2) praises its "stylistic approach that is almost Ophulsian in its precision and sensuousness." This is overstating the case; the comparison that jumped into my head was not Ophuls at all but Warner Brothers melodramas with Olivia de Havilland and Bette Davis bitching with each other over men and careers. But the director Xie Jin certainly knows how to move his camera around and locate his characters within their geographic environment; he also knows how to handle colour and visual design, and coax performances of great clarity and sympathy from his cast. And unlike Warner directors he also knows how to root the conflicts of his heroines in something more substantial than melodramatic tricks of the trade. But it would be foolish to pronounce on the qualities of a country's entire national cinema on the strengths of a single film; one can only hope that the initiative and enterprise of the NFT and the season's organisers Tony Rayns and Scott Meek will be matched by the initiative of audiences in delving into such uncharted territory. (A short selection of films from the season also begins on BBC television this *Saturday*).

★

Dressed to Kill, starring Michael Caine, Nancy Allen and Angie Dickinson (returning to the screen after umpteen seasons as TV's *Police Woman*), is written and directed by Brian De Palma—himself accomplished at making his own films dressed to kill with insistent music incredibly elongated climaxes and shoals of red herrings. This new opus reunites him with producer George Litto from his first large-scale success, the heavily Hitchcockian *Obsession* made four years ago, which finally pulled him out of the ranks of Hollywood's promising young oddballs. Once in the mainstream he has sadly *seemed* much *less* promising: take away the surface dressing from *Dressed to Kill* and you are left with an appallingly inchoate script, silly characterisations and a great deal of meandering camerawork. Most of this meandering accompanies the frenzied thoughts and actions of two females—Angie Dickinson's housewife (burdened with erotic fantasies) and Nancy Allen's callgirl—harassed by a blonde killer equipped with dark glasses and a razor stolen from the office of Michael Caine's psychiatrist. If this sounds like the stuff good nights out are made of, then do please go along; viewed under congenial conditions *Dressed to Kill* will certainly churn up a audience's insides. The problem is that it accomplishes the task with so little imagination or finesse, so little regard to the audience's intelligence.

★

Lastly, there is *Simon*, a film comedy that starts brightly only to backfire, though in the present desolate climate even comedy that backfires has some merit. The writer/director is Marshall Brickman, Woody Allen's co-writer on his beguiling futuristic romp *Sleeper* seven years ago, and the present film carries more than a few echoes—playing around in the same way with modern science and technology. The lead comic is Alan Arkin, a university professor groomed by dedicated pranksters as the world's first visitor from outer space; also involved are the underused Austin Pendleton, the delightful Judy Graubart and Madeline Kahn. Brickman gives them undeniably funny things to say, and pertinent remarks are made about such American phenomena as muzak, diet books, botair driers and Fred Astaire. But he also fritters away the force of his film by too much repetition and an incapacity for isolating the good jokes from the bad.

Della Jones, Alan Opie, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Felicity Lott

Leonard Burt

Coliseum

Così fan tutte by RONALD CRICHTON

English National Opera's first *Così fan tutte* for many years opened at the Coliseum on Wednesday with Sir Charles Mackerras as conductor, John Cox as producer and Roger Butlin as designer. In spite of the small numbers involved *Così*, given adequate musical performance, is a tough piece able to hold its own in a large theatre quite as securely as the *Flute* or *Figaro* or *Don Giovanni*. In a house the size of this one, however, the miniature, sham-rococo treatment is inappropriate. Mr. Cox, no doubt for other reasons as well, has treated the opera seriously and thoroughly in big sets with wide vistas. Mackerras has ensured a generous musical text with all three tenor arias and more of the recitative than we always hear.

The English version used is the old one by the Rev. Marmaduke Browne with which many of us, in the theatre and in the pages of the Novello Edition, grew up. Browne made his version for Stanford's 1890 performance with RCM students which sowed the seed of *Così*'s renewed popularity after years of 19th century neglect. Not even the nineties could face the moral implications of *Così*, and Browne's ingenious rhymes are partly spoiled for us by tactful prudishness about what da Ponte actually allowed his characters to feel and say. Mr. Cox has toned him up. The grafting process is smooth on the whole, but I wonder why Despina's "Rout them with coquetry whim and caprice" had to become "Flout them and jilt them whenever you can."

The sisters are not silly girls but impulsive, inexperienced young women. Felicity Lott (Fiordiligi) and Della Jones (Dorabella) both suggest that Ferrando and Guglielmo will have their hands full later on. Miss Lott's Fiordiligi is now a beautifully rounded performance lacking only a touch more of exaggeration in "Come scoglio" (the second and greater aria was admirable) but already most sensitively balancing high comedy against the sudden attack of unexpectedly deep sentiment. Miss Jones's firm, full, clear attack does not suit the pseudo-hysterics of "Smanie implacabili" but elsewhere gives sterling value. Her treatment of the dialogue should open the ears of any opera goers still unconvinced that secco recitative in English is an effective dramatic medium.

The men are less positively drawn. Anthony Rolfe Johnson sings Ferrando's arias most musically even though we know his voice can (and surely will) run more sweetly. Alan Opie indicates Guglielmo's doubts and thoughtfulness nicely enough in a gently mellifluous way that does not make quite the right contrast with the youthful, only slightly greying Alfonso of Neil Howlett, silky of voice and manner. There is a strong Despina from Marilyn Hill Smith, downright English except for a thread of Latin acid in the tone, masterfully avoiding the pitfalls of the role except for the hoary, traditional and possibly unavoidable squeak of the bogus lawyer. The white plastic mugs that fell over and rolled about the stage in the breakfast scene were presumably not the singers' choice.

The settings, in a style Mr. Butlin has used before, combine not very comfortably architectural elements with (very well) painted backcloth reproductions of paintings or prints. The action has been updated some years and Jane Austen is quoted in the programme. This means more cheesecake-cream and when not that, chain-store pastel shades for the sisters' costumes.

In the orchestra pit Mackerras and his players were in great fettle. Speeds were lively but only worryingly so in the first act finale. Details, from the wind especially, were unusually clear. Except at one or two moments when a character moved upstage ensembles went with a fizz and were vocally soundly integrated. The decorations which apparently upset some visitors to Aix this year seemed appropriate, and were fluently sung. With some attention to the first act—lighting especially—this should make a durable enough framework.

Old Vic

The Merchant of Venice

At last there are signs that the Old Vic is pulling itself together. Hang on, that sounds a little ungenerous. Michael Meacham's production of this intransigently unpalatable play is not merely respectable. It is beautifully designed, by Adrian Vaux, and very well acted, even allowing for a Gratiano who grabs too fiercely at his verse and a Portia (Maureen O'Brien) who squeaks a good deal before finding her correct vocal level in the trial scene. Venice has been visited by the Restoration. Antonio's mob are a collection of gallants in tricorns and pastel-coloured frock coats. The handsome façades are barricaded with scaffolding which allows Lorenzo to clamber up to Jessica's window before declaring to his friends that, despite being Jewish, she is really one of them after all. In the background there are discreet mural quotations from Canaletto and Botticelli as soft visual aids to the intertwining themes of commerce and romantic love.

The production refuses to comment on the play beyond laying it all out clearly and taking the plot as it comes. As is usual nowadays, Shylock is presented as less of a monster than a dignified operator within unsavoury guidelines. Timothy West manages at the same time a magnificent dignity; his Sephardic locks are topped by a grubby tricorn and he is obviously a businessman of stature in a society that values success but is only too ready to despise it in the name of priggish righteousness. He touches his doorpost mezuzah with casual ritual each time he disappears from view. And, in the face of Christian scorn, he fixes his gaze on the middle distance and unceremoniously allows his faith to speak through his replies. When Antonio's breast is bared, he flashes the knife only to be stopped in mid-flight. And from that moment his destruction is sealed by a gloating court from which he retires a drained and crumpled image of his former self.

No attempt is made to defuse the racist content of the piece. When the Prince of Morocco departs, Miss O'Brien positively glows as she stage-whispers "Let all of his complexion choose me so!" Jeffery Kissoon's Prince is no black buffoon, however. He is an exotic adventurer, magnificently attired, whose promises of derring-do transform him almost into an embryonic Othello. Even more mileage is extracted from the second suitor, the Prince of Arragon, whom Bernard Archer (doubling later as the Duke) plays as a grotesque replica of the fool's head he finds in the casket, glittering precariously around the stage with a severe attack of the knee trembles. Unlucky Gratiano appeared then to utter the line "And when your honours mean to sodomize the bargain of your faith" when they should mean to solemnize it.

Other memorable moments include Mr. West's agonised juggling of emotions when all is lost and he remembers Leah's jewel; and the vicious spit delivered by Antonio (David Sumner) as Shylock comes at him with the knife.

MICHAEL COVENEY

Comedy

Colette

by B. A. YOUNG

Colette, written and composed by John Dankworth, is not aimed at the devotees of French literature but the devotees of Cleo Laine. It consists of a run of 17 songs, with seven reprises, for Miss Laine and Kenneth Nelson. Colette, the writer, is the subject of the songs, and John Moffatt, wearing a crimson suit such as might have decked Ken Tynan, contributes a spoken commentary setting out the main points of her life. Miss Laine is quite capable of acting the part—I've even seen her as Hedda Gabler—but this is only a singing evening: she wears a Colette wig and Colette dresses, with glasses to indicate increasing age, and that's about it.

The songs are pretty enough, but desperately short of character. Time after time we hear stock phrases from the *merchandise of popular music*, and the lyrics are full of familiar chimes like "We'll stick together, whatever the weather," "the heavens above" and "June light, moon light." Mr. Moffatt's narrative is a bit like that too, and the wit that commended Colette to her first husband Willy comes out as comic one-liners in the music-hall tradition.

Mr. Nelson plays all three of Colette's husbands, Willy, de Jouvenel and Goudeket. He also plays her girl-friend Missy, but although he has a dance routine in this character he is thankfully not asked to sing. When he sings in his own voice, he is pleasant enough, though he doesn't do much in the acting line either.

Miss Laine's fans will have little to complain of, for she sings almost the whole evening. But I think Mr. Dankworth owes it to us to reveal the sources he has used in his depiction of *society* life in Paris. What was the 19-year-old Raven doing *en cette galère*? Was the young Gertrude Stein looking for a flat to enable her to move there nine years later? As for the 72-year-old César Franck, whom we thought had been dead for four years, he must have found them all a pretty odd lot. Wendy Toye, the director, might have introduced some local colour by giving him a love-scene with Augusta Holmes.

South Bank

ECO/Danby by PAUL DRIVER

The most hectic of encomiums would scarcely do justice to the dazzling, moving performance of Mozart's D major Violin Concerto given on Wednesday by the 17-year-old German Anne-Sophie Mutter. Not since Yehudi Menuhin's young days can there have been precocity like this — absolute mastery of technique matched by finished artistry and luminous musical understanding. Miss Mutter is an already celebrated protégé of Herbert von Karajan and has made three recordings with him. She shares his inclination for an immaculately woven, rich spread of sound; has his infallible rhythmic sense (and an infallible sense of intonation); and commands a similar platform presence: one of cool, certain aplomb, putting her utterly in control of herself, the music and — most frightening and Karajan-like — of the audience too. (She cut short the third ovation with a decisive gesture.)

Yet for all her impressive statuesque pose, Grecian profile, teutonic charisma, she retains girlishness and warmth. (Often she would wipe her hands on her dress with childish unselfconsciousness.) Her playing is as natural as breathing; her movements are beautiful to watch; the sense that her whole self is consummated in her technique and expression was affecting. Her range is wide—there are no weak links in her playing at all. Though she favours a burnished, gorgeous tone, it has always a ringing clarity. She can draw a magnificent silvery tone too, or the most evanescent but sustained whisper (as unforgettably at the end of the slow movement). And how effortlessly she projects her sound, filling the auditorium.

I found her sensuous, romantic approach to the Mozart concerto highly appropriate. It is bigger, more bodied music than is always conceded. Interpretive nuances were in bewildering profusion: Miss Mutter's real distinction—which raises her above any mere *wunderkind*—is in the quickness of her musical intelligence: she is invariably ahead of you with an apt subtlety: an impassioned portamento at the B minor beginning of the first movement's development made startling structural sense; not only was the first cadenza (like the two succeeding) impeccable of double-stops and figuration, but Miss Mutter knew just how significant were its echoes of the concerto's martial opening, here only recurring.

The members of the English Chamber Orchestra provided ideal accompaniment. They had given Dvorak's *Czech Suite* op 39—its Romanza tender, effulgent, well moulded; its "Furiant" finale full of what might be termed splenetic good humour—and went on to play Brahms's D major Serenade. The conductor Sir Alexander Gibson's jerky gestures seemed as usual rather beside the point here. At any rate he brought off a lovely, cogent account of a forthcoming but puzzling piece of music.

★

At 5.55 pm on Wednesday the GLC's annual series of organ recitals at the Festival Hall was opened by Nicholas Danby. This year it will be pretty well devoted to Bach: 11 all-Bach programmes and 10 "mixed bags" in which Bach will share the hour-long space with other composers.

Danby's programme was interestingly chosen, exquisite inventions like the *quasi-instrumental* D minor Prelude and Fuge (BWV 539), the melodious G minor Fuge (BWV 578) or the tiny chorale prelude, *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* (BWV 730), brought face to face with edifices like the E minor Prelude and Fuge (BWV 548). His playing for most of the time was satisfying enough—workmanly and a bit colourless. He saved himself, though, for a reading of the E minor work of brilliant splendour and shattering force.

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The CAP no longer fits

THE BATTLE over the European Community's budget for 1981, which is now under way in Brussels, is falling into a wholly predictable, and profoundly sterile pattern. The vicious circle can only be broken if the debate is focused on the root of the budgetary problem, and that is the cost of the common agricultural policy. If the member governments go on pretending that they can turn a blind eye to the crying need for a radical reform of the CAP, they will be doing the Community a grave disservice. In that sense, we agree with the verdict of the Commission that the ministers are being irresponsible, though not for the reasons given by the Commission.

Existing rules

It is obvious that there is something wrong with a political system which devotes three-quarters of its financial resources to a relatively small (and declining) segment of the Community population. The Commission wanted to rectify this imbalance by putting in for large increases in other forms of spending, like the social and regional funds, and thus reduce the share of farm spending to something like two-thirds of the total.

Unfortunately, this meant increasing the total size of the Community budget to the point where it would be bumping up against the ceiling of the maximum financial resources which could be made available under existing rules. Under the pretext of financial stringency, at a time when most member governments are trying to control national public spending, the ministers have made big cuts in the Commission's proposals for increased non-farm spending. But the farm policy remains untouched, because the mechanisms of the policy make it impossible to control, or even forecast, its costs.

As we have seen, the end result is that there is a large positive flow of funds to rich farmers in rich countries, which is a denial of any aim of narrowing regional and national inequalities. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt takes the wastefulness of the CAP as an excuse for adopting a sceptical view of any Community spending, but his position is not strengthened by making cuts only in those chapters of the budget which might conceivably not be wasteful and counter-productive.

In reality, however, the argument of financial stringency is only a hypocritical cover for the most cynical log-rolling between Germany and France in a pre-electoral period. The French President wants to leave enough headroom in the budget to be able to finance farm price increases which will strengthen his hand in next spring's presidential election, and the German Chancellor wants to give him a leg up.

Yet everybody knows that the common agricultural policy must be reformed. One of the sections in the French Planning Commissariat's survey of the next 20 years is headlined: "The Common Agricultural Policy will be renegotiated." If the budgetary ceiling is not reached in 1981, it will be reached in 1982: are we to suppose that the member Governments will then start cutting out all Community spending except the CAP?

Major interests

Naturally, the main beneficiaries of the CAP would like to postpone any consideration of reform for as long as possible, in the hope that then they could get away with minor tinkering at the margin. Such an outcome would be deeply unsatisfactory for the Community; in any case, it may well be impossible, since the prospective admission of Spain and Portugal to full membership in two or three years would, if the CAP remained unreformed, be bound to add substantially to the costs of the policy.

The British Government has a major interest in seeing the question of CAP reform come out into the open in the near future, since a radical reform is the only sure way of securing a permanent solution to the problem of the UK's excess contributions to the budget, as well as the only sure way of channelling Community expenditure into useful directions. At the same time, the UK has a unique asset in its energy resources which could be brought into play in parallel with negotiations on the CAP. Mrs. Thatcher was right not to discuss North Sea oil in return for a temporary budget bargain. But a radical reform of the CAP would be a much more valuable achievement, and one which would benefit the Community as a whole.

How to control monopolies

THE TIME has come for the Government to reconsider its whole attitude to the nationalised industries' financing and pricing. The National Consumer Council was right to state yesterday that "the record of nationalised industry price rises over the past 12 months verges on the disastrous." Since coming to power, the Government has alternately pretended either that it has no direct influence on nationalised industry pricing, or, even more bizarrely, that price increases in the public sector can somehow make a positive contribution to counter-inflation policy.

Pay round

The continuing inflationary pressure still being generated by industrialists and workers responding to the 26.3 per cent average increase in nationalised industry prices during the year to mid-August is the penalty for the Government's self-deception. If the nationalised industries had kept their price rises down to the general level of retail inflation over the past year, consumers might now be facing an inflation rate of less than 15 per cent, rather than the 16.3 per cent which union leaders will, in fact, be bearing to the bargaining tables as the pay round opens. For industry, the effects of nationalised industry price increases have been even more serious. Unlike value added tax, these prices affect industrial costs directly, as well as through wage expectations. They have an immediate adverse impact on industrial competitiveness, which is matched by few other instruments of economic policy.

When it is not taking refuge in general reflections about non-intervention or the need to control public sector borrowing, the Government has one apparently rational riposte to such criticism: the justification lies not in macroeconomic policy but in "the need to put the state industries' finances on a sounder footing" to quote Mr. John Biffen speaking recently on the radio.

However, it is simply untrue that the recent spate of price increases have had anything to do with "sound financing." On the contrary several have in effect been imposed against the wishes of management, either as a response to new, more demanding financial targets as in the case of the gas and electricity industries, or because of the impossibility of meeting arbitrary external financing limits imposed by the Government in its attempts to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

There is nothing "sound" about requiring corporations in invulnerable monopoly positions to meet tougher financial targets at a time when the profitability of most other industries is plunging. Nor is it rational to force industries at the forefront of technological advance, such as British Telecom, to finance almost the whole of their expansion internally, by simultaneously raising prices and cutting investment programmes. British Rail, which was given a small concession last week through a £40m increase in its external financing limit could, with the right attitudes from management, unions and government, be another industry with a rapidly growing market.

Of course the attitudes of management and unions are the key to the headaches which all governments have suffered in their dealings with the nationalised industries. The main objection to letting the corporations borrow more heavily instead of raising prices is simply the suspicion that greater financial freedom would lead directly to higher wage increases and more inefficient operation. There is, however, little evidence to suggest that the very roundabout control exercised through external financing limits has had any effect on wage bargaining or efficiency.

Alternative

Only by combining price restrictions with strict financing limits can the Government hope to have a major impact on nationalised industries' pay bargaining. This would be tantamount to a pay policy for this part of the public sector and could well lead to the confrontations with powerful industrial groups which the Government has been studiously avoiding.

The alternative is to give the industries much greater financial freedom, provided their managements and workers prove capable of meeting reasonable medium-term targets for financial performance and efficiency.

THE CRISIS IN EUROPEAN STEEL

BSC: patient in intensive care

ALAN PIKE analyses the troubles of the British steel industry which mirror those elsewhere in Europe but are more serious

EUROPE'S steel industry is once again in a state of crisis. Most of the leading companies are making heavy losses and the British Steel Corporation, Europe's largest producer, is among the worst hit and it is going to need yet more public money to keep going.

But its problems are by no means unique. The recession has bitten deep in Britain, but its effects have also been felt elsewhere on the Continent. Over production, over manning, and over capacity are major causes for concern in many European countries. And in Brussels where the EEC has been struggling for some time to create order in the industry, there is now a clear feeling that crucial decisions will have to be taken this autumn.

The prospect that the three-year-old Davignon plan, under which the EEC has sought to maintain voluntary price and production stability, might collapse has raised again the spectre of an all against all price war which many European steelmakers believe would be nothing short of disastrous.

Next Tuesday Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Industry Commissioner, will meet representatives of the 12 largest Community steel makers in a final effort to get agreement on further voluntary curbs.

If this fails it is a real possibility that mandatory controls will have to be imposed under the European Coal and Steel Community rules. (This aspect of Europe's steel crisis will be the subject of a second article which will coincide with next week's meeting.)

BSC has been particularly badly affected by the slump in British car production, a long steel strike and the steady desertion of its products by its domestic consumers. These are the peculiarly British reasons for its current dire problems. But the group also serves as a symbol of what, in varying degrees, is affecting most European producers.

In these circumstances Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, has accepted that BSC will not be able to keep within the Government's £450m cash limit this financial year, and is about to announce further financial assistance will be available. Sir Charles Villiers, Mr. MacGregor's predecessor, estimated in June that the shortfall would be around £400m but it could well be more.

It is similarly expected that BSC's losses in the current financial year will be at least as high as last year's £545m and liquid steel production—which last year reached 14.1m tonnes—could be little more than 10m tonnes. These projections for the current year are made worse when account is taken of the fact that BSC produced no steel at all during the final quarter of 1979-80 because of the strike, and some £200m of last year's losses were directly attributable to the dispute.

The strong pound, the level of inflation and heavy increases in fuel costs have all caused the corporation severe problems as it has struggled for orders in a desperately weak market. In addition, leaders of both sides of the British steel industry accuse Continental manufacturers (who found the U.S. market all but closed to them during the anti-dumping suits issue) of diverting surplus steel to Britain.

The entry of such steel has been fuelled by the contacts which British suppliers and stockholders made with Continental suppliers during last winter's national steel strike.

In the immediate aftermath of the strike the level of import penetration was appalling for BSC. Imports in April reached a value of £205m—compared with a monthly average of £101m during 1979—and the level dropped only to £193m in May. While there has been a decline every month since then—by August the figure had dropped to £112m—other evidence suggests the British industry cannot merely regard increased imports as simply a temporary aberration.

A survey conducted this month by Industrial Purchasing News suggested that 40 per cent of manufacturers and stockholders who responded to the inquiry were changing their steel suppliers—with 72 per cent of these companies intending to go overseas for at least some of the steel which they previously obtained in Britain.

Delivery and quality were mentioned among the reasons for this intended switch but the main factor was price. Companies feel that they are suffering a price disadvantage of at least 10 per cent by buying British.

Mr. Ian MacGregor, the new chairman of BSC, is acutely aware of this problem. While the problems of the pound and the recent concerted attack by foreign steel producers on the British market are major factors in the present troubles, the solution to them also involves further technological development by BSC—by for instance, increasing the amount of steel which is produced by continuous casting—and yet again improving productivity.

These are among the factors which will appear in the wide ranging review of BSC's activities and future which Mr. MacGregor will present to the Government within the next month or two.

BSC denies charges from some union sources that, in the face of the activities of other EEC producers its own export drive is not sufficiently aggressive, but is determined that it will export only if there is a profit to be made. Nonetheless, the amount of steel exported by BSC has been in decline for the past two or three years and this trend will continue through 1980. In the April-July four months period BSC exported nearly 700,000 tonnes and this would suggest an annual figure of around 2m tonnes. But the April-July total is distorted by exports which were delayed during the winter's strike and exports in the current financial year will fall below 2m—compared with 2.5m in 1979-80 and 2.9m in 1978-79.

Mr. MacGregor's efforts to bring the runaway finances of BSC under control focus upon another of the areas where BSC differs from the rest of the European steel industry—it has already gone through a rationalisation programme which has cost jobs at a rate which most competitors would consider quite remarkable. The present redundancy operation, which is nearing its end with the highly-publicised demise of the Consett works, will lead to the loss of about 52,000 jobs.

By comparison, the Spanish steel industry—which is expanding too much for the liking of a number of EEC steelmakers—has lost less than 1,000 workers during the past year, largely because of Government anxiety not to let job losses get in the way of its efforts to keep wage increases under control. In the French steel industry, where closures have provoked the sort of social unrest which has been threatened—but not experienced—in Britain, far fewer jobs have gone. There was a decline of 11,000 between 1978 and 1979, and 38,000 between 1974 and 1979.

The drastic cuts in BSC have come about because of the speed with which it has been forced to reassess its capacity needs. Sir Charles Villiers inherited an industry with a target capacity of 30m tonnes, and four years later handed over to Mr. MacGregor one which will be half this size.

In these circumstances the British Government's decision to increase BSC's subsidy constitutes an acknowledgment that there is no quick and simple solution to the present problems of the steel industry. And Mr. MacGregor, by wanting to delay his final proposals on the future shape and size of BSC for as long as possible, appears to agree with that.

This feature has been written with the assistance of FT correspondents in Europe.

HOW THE INDUSTRIES ARE ADAPTING

THE NETHERLANDS steel industry is in effect Hoogovens, one partner with German Hoesch in the Estel group. Planned production at its Ijmuiden plant this year is 5m tonnes—maximum capacity is 7.5m tonnes. Planned expansion to 11m tonnes has been dropped because of the steel market. The company is convinced that Davignon-type measures must continue, believing that a free market would have "disastrous consequences" for the entire steel industry. Workforce dropped from 22,381 at the end of 1977 to 20,059 in late 1979.

WEST GERMAN steel companies are divided over the EEC's efforts to maintain and revise the Davignon measures. Dr. Herbert Gienow, chairman of Kloeckner, insists that any new agreement must include a special quota for his company to compensate for an artificially low output level fixed when the production levels on which the plan is based were set. This was before its Bremen plant had fully come on stream. But the company has been criticised for taking this position by Hoesch and other West German producers and the squabbling led to Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, this week telling the companies to "get their house in order as soon as possible."

Structural adjustment to flagging demand is continuing in the West German industry—20,000 jobs have been shed during the past two years, although there has been little compulsory redundancy, and the industry now employs 300,000.

ITALY'S steel industry problems are largely financial with publicly-owned Finsider—responsible for roughly half of national production—severely undercapitalised and forced into heavy bank borrowing. Assider, the Italian steel producers' association, earlier this month demanded urgent government action on restructuring, recapitalisation, import penetration and energy costs. The Italian industry fears that acceptance of Davignon reductions for the final quarter of the year will worsen import penetration.

LUXEMBOURG steel giant Arbed has in recent years gained a reputation as a skilled crisis manager through its plan to restructure itself back to health. This suffered a partial blow two months ago when it announced that the plan will be 50 per cent more expensive than originally thought—rather than LuxFr 23bn (about $800m) originally considered necessary to finance the 1979-83 programme the bill will be nearer LuxFr 37bn. Luxembourg's largest company, with its debt burden already standing at over LuxFr 22bn, is looking to the Grand Duchy's government to finance the plan, which is vital if Arbed is to maintain its leading role in the EEC as a producer of long products.

FRENCH steel industry rationalisation will reduce theoretical capacity to between 28m and 29m tonnes in the early 1980s (effective capacity 24m-25m) against earlier projections of 33m. The French Government has spent an estimated FFr 20bn in the writing off of debts, redundancy payments, regional aid and similar support but the two major bulk steel producers, Usinor and Sacilor Sollac, are still making heavy losses.

A current reorganisation is expected to bring specialist steel producers, Ugine Steel and Creusot Loire, into the orbit of the bulk manufacturers. This is part of an attempt to concentrate the industry on more elaborate products and the finishing end. Employment has dropped from 158,000 in 1974 to 131,000 in 1978 and 120,000 in 1979. About 11,000 more jobs are due to go by early 1981 under a 1978 restructuring plan.

SWEDEN'S steel industry is being restructured—present plans envisage a net fall in crude steel capacity from roughly 7m to 6m tonnes during the next two or three years. Svenskt Stal, the biggest producer, is closing down four of its eight blast-furnaces, reducing capacity to 2.5m tonnes. The Swedish industry, more than 30 per cent of whose crude steel output goes into special steels, has co-operated closely with Brussels over the Davignon programme. It negotiates annually with the EEC over the size of Swedish steel exports to the Common Market and Swedish prices have conformed to those in the EEC.

GREAT BRITAIN'S nationalised steel producer, the British Steel Corporation, is the biggest single European manufacturer and arguably also the British Government's biggest single industrial problem. The Corporation lost a record £545m in the last financial year and current year's losses are likely to be as bad or worse. An unparallelled rationalisation programme, involving 52,000 redundancies, is reducing this year's capacity to 15m liquid tonnes but actual output is expected to fall far short of this. The Government has instructed Mr. Ian MacGregor, BSC's new chairman, to produce a plan of action to stem the losses but has accepted that it will have to provide additional short-term aid to the corporation. While BSC's difficulties have been aggravated by last winter's national strike the summer's particular severe demand for steel in Britain and import penetration is also badly affecting the industry's private sector.

SPAIN'S STEEL industry employs 75,390 people. 45,000 are in three integrated producers—Ensidesa, Altos Hornos de Mediterraneo (AHM) and Altos Hornos de Vizcaya (AHV). Steel has become a central issue in Spain's EEC negotiations with the Commission and several member states anxious to stop Spain increasing its steelmaking capacity with a new hot rolled coil complex. The present Spanish industry is based upon long products. Its motor industry requires sheet steel facilities to reduce heavy dependence on imports.

BELGIUM has, for a country of 10m people, a disproportionately large steel industry with an annual capacity of almost 20m tonnes. It is therefore in especially acute crisis—the steel sector is now losing about $1bn a year and sweeping restructuring plans costing BFr 60bn have been delayed by political problems. A radical emergency proposal to dismantle the chief producer—Liege-based Cockerill which accounts for about 30 per cent of Belgium's 12m tonnes output—into separate sink-or-swim units has provoked a storm of protest.

NEB DISPOSALS

A table summarising divestments which accompanied yesterday's article on the National Enterprise Board wrongly indicated that F. W. Elliott (Holdings), the long-established clockmakers, was in Receivership. In fact, F. W. Elliott took over the NEB's shareholding in Thwaites and Reed Ltd., another clockmaker, and is trading normally.

MEN AND MATTERS

Warsaw hails its hero

Lech Walesa, the 37-year-old Gdansk electrician who leapt from unemployed obscurity to international fame as the leader of Poland's new independent trade unions took Warsaw by storm on Wednesday.

Driving down from Gdansk in a battered bus festooned with union slogans, his first call was early morning mass followed by tactical discussions at the capital's Polish Intellectuals' Club. Just opposite the official trade union headquarters, the club dispenses hot black tea and advice to unionists from Mazovsha, the old name for the district around Warsaw.

Spiritually and intellectually holstered, Walesa and his train of delegates from the 17 district-branches of the new union moved on to a hero's welcome at the grim court house. The normal course of justice ground to a halt as typists, clerks and judges alike leaned out of windows and jostled with the mob for a sight of the man of the moment.

Bedlam reigned in room 203 until tough union marshals imposed order by decreeing: "Delegates this side, journalists that side and judges in the middle." Depositing his union statutes with the three judges sitting across a green baize table, Walesa and his growing entourage streamed out of the room, almost sweeping away an astonished policeman walking downstairs with a downcast prisoner in handcuffs.

As suporters chanted his name and threw bunches of carnations Walesa was carried shoulder-high down the courtroom steps before beginning an impromptu one-mile march behind the union banner through gaping crowds to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Victory Square. On then, two hours late, to a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Jagielski.

Twice blessed, by Church and State, Walesa and company swept off to the Ursus tractor plant, a stronghold of free trade union aspirations since the strikes and riots there in 1976. Hoarse and weary, Walesa rose to the cheers from more than 5,000 workers in the factory football stadium before sitting down with the crowds of journalists who had scrimmaged in his wake all day.

Asked if he intended to co-operate with the official trade unions, he replied: "Yes, if they still exist. About 90 per cent of the workers seem to want to join our union. But we've had enough of unanimity," he smiled. "Perhaps somebody should give the official unions a subsidy to keep them going."

Blue murder

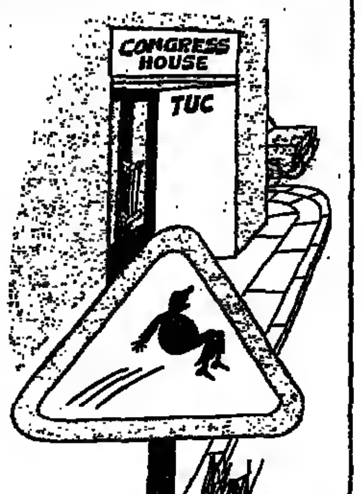
Chairing the annual meeting of electrical engineers Laurence Scott yesterday, chairman Paul Tapscott waxed eloquent in Carrollian style on the indignities being forced upon industry. Doubtless stirred by the new financial pressures on one of his other companies, Lesney, and the fact that even now Scott is besieged by bidder Mining Supplies, he declaimed that industry was fast becoming a Mad Hatter's tea party.

"We must make ourselves more productive and more efficient," he said, acting the part of the host. "That means we must produce more, in less time, from capital we can not afford, to service customers without work, to buy with money they have not got and can not afford to borrow."

Changing voices, Tapscott continued: "'Rubbish,' yelled the blue queen, rushing along the M3 with her foot on the brake and her discarded corset jamming the accelerator. 'Who needs industry'."

In marginally less theatrical style, Tapscott later enlarged with an illustration from Scott's recent experience. The Central Electricity Generating Board came with an order for a two-year job, adding apologetically that cash was so tight that it would not be able to make any progress payments. "We could not afford to finance it for two years," he said, "and we turned them away. If things go on like this the Blue Queen will find she has killed part of industry."

"Oh yes," he replied to the obvious question, "I am a member of the Conservative Party. I paid up last week in fact."



Adams appeal

Six years ago, Stanley Adams became something of a European hero by supplying the EEC with evidence that Hoffman-La Roche, the Swiss chemicals and drugs company, was breaking Community competition laws.

After a long legal battle, the company—net annual profits about £20m—was fined £175,000. Adams, a Maltese-born former employee, paid a heavier price. He was convicted under Swiss secrecy laws of industrial espionage, sentenced to prison and banned from Swiss soil. His wife committed suicide while he was in detention and he has been living since, in some poverty, with his three young daughters in Italy.

Under persistent pressure, the EEC Commission earlier this year gave Adams a "hardship payment" of £25,000 — a "derisory amount" according to his friends to set against his distress.

Now a group of sympathisers in London, including Tate and Lyle president John Lyle, Sir John Foster, chairman of Justice and former Tory MP, and Edward Holloway, director of the Economic Research Council, hope to clear Adams' debts and provide enough for him to begin a new life in Britain if Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, can be persuaded to allow him to settle here. Adams, a one-time British consul, lost his UK nationality when Malta became independent.

Meanwhile, the Socialist Group in the European Parliament is pushing the EEC Commission to re-open the Hoffman case in the Swiss courts. Richard Caborn, Labour MEP for Sheffield, tells me: "We believe the Swiss action against Adams broke its trade agreement with the EEC and we intend to see that it does not happen again."

Forewarned

Marvellous thing, hindsight, but I cannot have been the only one who shrugged on August 20 when news arrived from Iraq that the Government had increased by half interest-free loans to cautious citizens wanting to build air-raid shelters.

Magic

Overheard snatch of conversation between two executives of Singer and Friedlander, the merchant bank which is about to be sold to new owners: "You know, now I *do* believe in ferries at the bottom of the garden."

Observer

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

Friday September 26 1980

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Ford's World Car

Never before has a motor company had so much at stake on a new car as Ford with today's launch of the Erika. Different versions will be sold in various markets—but it arrives at a time when Ford desperately needs to revive its fortunes in the U.S.

Three cars for three continents. Top: the Escort for Europe; centre: the Mazda 323 (on which the Ford Laser for the Far East will be based); and the Mercury Lynx for the U.S.

Project that has to succeed

By Kenneth Gooding,

Motor Industry Correspondent

FORD'S front-wheel-drive "world car," code-named Erika during its development, takes to the roads of Europe today bearing the Escort badge.

It was developed as part of a $3bn (£1.2bn) project, the biggest the group haa undertaken. And the Escort also has been described by Sir Terence Beckett, until recently chairman of Ford UK, aa "the most important new car in Ford'a history."

That was not dramatising the situation. Some observers helieve that, should the "world car" fail, Ford will never fully recover from its present difficulties.

During the past five years the motor industry in the Weatern world has heen deluged with problems from many directions. The motoring public is demanding cars with better fuel consumption but will not tolerate any sacrifice in safety. The industry is therefore having to Invest huge sums to get the new hreed of fuel-efficient vehicles to the market as quickly as possible.

Yet the same trend is switching present sales to smaller cars and away from the higger ones which carry much healthier profit margins.

The Japanese had the capacity available to produce the right kind of cars to meet the boom in demand for smaller vebicles in the U.S. and Europe. They have therefore heen abte to atrengthen their position in world markets and fix their pricea at even more competitive levels than hefore.

Thia factor has helped put a brake on attempts hy the Western manufacturers to improve the profitability of their small cars in their home markets or ta fill their manufacturing capacity by exporting more to "neutral" markets.

The squeeze on oil supplies in the aummer of 1979 created uncertainty among potential customers in the larger markets such aa the U.S. and Weat Germany, a pbenomenon which coincided with the nermal downturn in the three or four-year cycle of demand for cars and turned it into a severe recession. In Europe this is likely to last throughout 1981.

As the world's third-largest producer of cars (2.04m last year compared with General Motora' 5.09m and Toyota's 2.11m) Ford could hardly expect to come througb these pressures unacathed.

But, as bad luck would have it, the group is also suffering severe "image" prohlems in the U.S. and, to some extent, West Germany, the two major markets in the West. And "image" is very important when, like Ford, you are selling consumer products.

In the U.S. Ford has had two blows. Tbe first concerned allegations that its small car, the Pinto, was prooe to catching fire after a rear-end colliaion. A more recent allegation—strongly refuted—is that its automatic gearhox jumps from "park" te "reverse" in extreme and particular circumstances and this has caused injuries aod deaths.

So, one way or another, Ford's losses are mounting at a faster pace than those of many of its rivals—and it must be stressed that most car mannfacturers outside Japan are aperating at a losa today.

Expectations are for a $1.5bn loss in 1980 (against a $1.17bn profit last year) and no return to profitability until the second quarter of 1981. To combat the effects the group has slashed investment to 1984 by $2.5bn, possibly mortgaging the future to some extent, and $1.5bn ia belng carved from annual operating costs.

Invest

In blunt terms, if the Erika project does not pay a reasonable return Ford weuld bave to think aeriously about its future because it would not have the funds to invest in a full range of cars for the 1980s. And it happens to be domiciled in a country where the Government does not automatically bale out companies in trouble, however hig they might be.

Ford needs in particular to rebuild market share in the U.S., where it once had 30 per cent but has fallen since 1978 from 23 to 18 per cent, and in Germany—down from 12.8 to 9.8 per cent between January and April this year.

One element in the group's policy for tackling this challenge is already clear. Its pricing is pretty aggressive. For example, in the UK and Germany the new Escort, incorporating much up-to-date technology, and manufactured on the most modern plant, will cost only about 3 per cent mere than the old model it replaces.

In the U.S. there havo already beeo suggestions that the price is so low that Ford will be selling the new car at a loss, at least initially.

However, it ceuld be that Ford is simply passing on the henefits of "world car" production even though it has not taken the concept anywhere near as far as it might.

The "world car" appreach is really to do with "world components." To many people the idea suggests the production of key cemponents in vast numhers st huge plants to get the enormous economies of scale that should result. The components could then be distributed around the werld to various car assembly plants and made into vebicles designed apecifically to suit the local markets in which they will be sold.

However, Ford has re-written the description of the "world car" in a way—surprise, surprise—which fits the Erika perfectly. Ferd says any definition today of a "world car" should include "the design, engineering and development of a product by internatiooal teams of technical talent inherent in a worldwide corparation.

"The end result should he a car with a uniform engineering philosophy and sufficient commonality in component design to permit optimum use of the productive resources of the company."

Ford reckons that by pooling its worldwide effort it saved "up to $150m on engineering, tools, facilities and launching costs." In terms of human resources the group saved 15,000 man-years — or the efforts ef 5,000 engineers over the three years the Erika was in development.

Costly

Work on the Erika project started in 1977 wben Ford in the U.S. gave up plans to develop is own small car and decided instead to usa cars developed in Europe.

But it soon found it would have been very costly to have forced its U.S. suppliers to provide components to European specifications.

Ford had already diacovered the weak link in the "world car" concept. Many companies in many countriea already have component production facilities. It would not be economic to duplicate their efforts even with vast plants. Ford found it was hetter to adapt the car than to face investment in new component facilities or force suppliers to make major changes at their plants.

Changing the car was possible because body design on the Erika was carried out in Dearborn in the U.S., Turin in Italy and Merkenich in Germany. Because both the European and U.S. versions did well in "consumer clinics" Ford decided to allow aome styling variations between the two to satisfy the tastes of European and North American customers.

Ford does not intend to take the apparent opportunity to swop components between Europe and North America on a large scale. It seems to feel that it bas gone far enough by setting up tbe highly complex supply network in Europe which has been operating successfully for some years.

So Europe will not be a major supplier of components to the U.S. models. In the U.S. 95 per cent of Erika components will be sourced from local suppliers. The major element io the outstanding 5 per cent will be manual transaxles (front-wheel-drive gearboxes) supplied from Japan by Toyo Kogyo.

Even though Ford expects that about 30 per cent of its UK customers for the Erika models will choose a manual version, it still reckons the volume involved does not warrant investment in an American plant at a time when funds are in short aupply. Neithar will it take the manual transaxles used in the European Erika and which are identical with those used in tbe Fiesta and mada in Bordeaux, France.

Erika models will be assembled at two U.S. plants, Wayne, Michigan and Metuchen, New Jersey, and sold in North America as either the Ford Escort or the Lincoln-Mercury Lynx.

They will be assembled in two European plants—Halewood in the UK and Saarlouis in West Germany. In Europe it will carry on tha Escort name from the model it replaces.

Linked with these developments is a car to be made for Ford by the Japanese group Toyo Kogyo at Hiroahima. This will be assembled in several countriea as well as Japan and sold in the Far East (hut not Japan) and Australasia as the Ford Laser.

The connection between Toyo and Ford began because the U.S. group had aeen for some time it could not expect to maintain market share in the Asia-Pacific area by sending out car kits from either Europe or the U.S. for local assemhly in individnal markets.

The Japanese industry, with *its high productivity and low* costs, would eventually swamp Ford, which would not he able to charge economic prices for its vehicles.

So Ford took the Erika engineering concept along to Toyo with which it already had links — Ford sells about 60,000 Toyo pick-up trucks through its dealers, mainly in the U.S. The idea was for the Japanese company to develop a car from this concept using some input from Ford's Asia-Pacific division.

The outcome is the Mazda

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Components network takes shape

M. BERNARD VERNIER-PALLIEZ, president of Renault, said recently: "There are no world cara, only world components to be made on a vast scale."

That seems to be only partly true for Ford's new world car. The vehicles to be sold in the U.S., Europe and the Asia-Pacific area certainly will not look alike. They will be different because local tastea are different, as are the technical regulations for vehicles in each geographic area.

But neither will there be as many common components or assemblies as might bave been expectad if Ford had pushed tbe world car concept to the limit. Mr. Philip Caldwell, Ford's chairman, summed it up when he said: "There are more common brains in lt (Erika) than common parts."

Eveo though tbe Ford engineers in Europe and the U.S. were working on the same concept, tha cars they eventually designed have littla in common. According to Ford, tha engine hasic parts are common — except for the emission control unit needed for the States. And the floor pan and running gear of the Amarican Escort/Lynx could be fitted with European suspension parts.

However, in practice both *areas* — the *U.S. and Europe* — will be self-sufficient. In the U.S., for example, 95 per cent of the *components for the* Escort/Lynx will he provided hy local suppliers.

The major part of the outstanding 5 per cent will he accounted for by tha manual transaxles (gearboxes) from Ford's Japanese associate, Toyo Kogyo. Ford estimates that around one third of the Escort/Lynxes sold in the U.S. will have manual transmissions hut that does not warrant the group settiog up a plant of *its own* there. Toyo ohviously won the contract because Japan is such a low-cost manufacturing area.

In Europe manual transaxles — almost identical to those used in the Fiesta — will be supplied from Ford's wholly-owned plants at Bordeaux, Halewood and Cologne.

One of the reasona Ford bas not pushed the "world component" concept to the limit is that it can get the required economies of scale, so essential in the motor industry, in each of the individual markets of the U.S. and Europe.

A report by the UK Central Policy Review Staff — the "Think Tank" — some years ago covered this topic and suggested that the minimum *efficient size for a manufactur*ing operation making ideotical castings for an engine block was an annual output of 100,000. For engine and transmission machining and assembly the figure was 500,00 and for final assemhly 250,000.

Influenced

Ford can achieve theae figures —or something very close— without having to *resort to* trans-Atlantic sourcing.

The local content statistics are also heavily influenced by the fact that Ford huys about 60 per cent of its components from outside suppliers and maintains that this will not change significantly for tha Erika models.

The group has a tendency to flood its suppliers with a deluge of paparwork so as to ensure that compooeots are continually made to a required standard. But this quality control process is handled mainly hy middle managers who prefer to deal with suppliers not too far from the assembly plant and wbo, literally, speak the same language.

Even so, components for the U.S. version of the Erika will be sourced ln at least eight countries including Mexico (door-lift assembly), Brazil (rear hrake assembly), Britain (sterling gears, valves), France (clutch assembly), Spain (suspension struts), West Germany (bushings), Italy (fuel pumps, cylinder heads) and Japan (air pumps, wbeel hearings, steering wheels, halfshafts, and switch assemblies as well as transaxles).

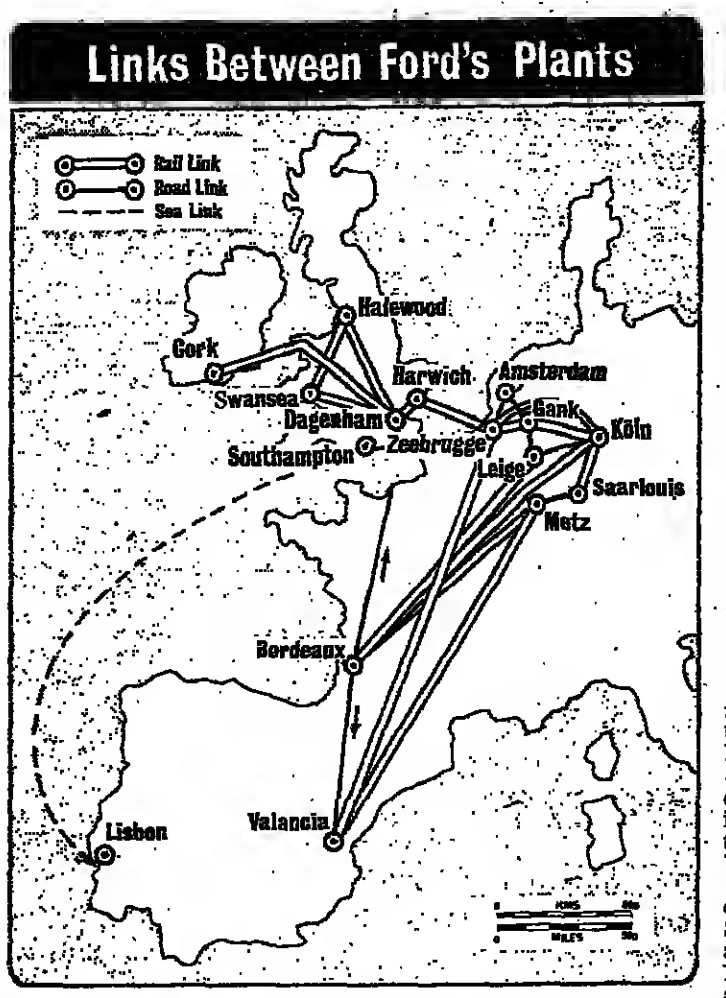
The major ltem to make the trans-Atlantic crossing from the States to Europe will be the *automatic* transmission when the antomatic verslon of the European Escort is introduced in about a year's time.

This will be Ford's own antomatic, made at Batavia, Ohio, which, it claims, is nearly as fuel-efficient as a manual gearbox.

Sourcing components from *many suppliers and sending* some of them half-way around the world is a highly complex operation particularly if the car assembly plant wants to shoot finished vehicles off the lines at the rate of one a minute.

It can be achieved only by compoter control. Computers make sure that the individual parts for an Escort ordered by a UK customer arrive at just the right tima to he assembled at various stages on either the Halewood or Saarlouis production lines.

Ford has great faith in its ability to swing components backwards and forwards around Europe because it bas now had soma years' experience in doing *just that. It was among* the first companies to take the EEC concept at face value and deal with it as one, common market. Over the years Ford bas reduced the range of cars it makes for Europe and attempted to maximise the economies of scale.



It has been easier for the group to organise its operations to gain these benfits than for, say, BL or Renault—both State-owned companies, which are obliged to look first to employment and suppliers in their own countries.

Every working day Ford would hope to build around 7,500 cars and commercial vehicles in Europe as well as making enough components at its 25 manufacturing centres to cope with orders from the group's subsidiaries around the world.

For protection and ease of handling, components are packed into containers or closed rail wagons. In the UK, Belgium, and Germany there are special trains which carry only Ford components in closed wagons. Within the company these high-speed express links are *known* as "Blne Trains."

From the UK plants containerised components are taken to the port of Harwich on the East Coast and then shipped acroas the North Sea on a twice-daily ferry service to Zeebrugge in Belgium and then by rail to the Ford plants in Belgium West Germany and Spain.

Transmissions made in Bordeaux are moved to the UK and Spain hy road and to Belgium and Germany by rail. Exports to Ford companies outside Europe are by sea.

Special "drop body" containers from the Cologne and Genk (Belgium) plants are *transported by* road to Liege where they are removed from the trucks and transferred onto rail wagons and then taken from Liege to Valencia by rail.

From Saarlouis in Germany many "drop body" containers are moved by road to Metz and then by rail from Metz to Valencia. On the return trip Fiesta engines and hody panels travel by rail from Valencia to Metz and then on to other plants by road.

Delivery from the plants in Britain to those in Belgium and West Germany by the rail and sea service requires three days and to Spain eight days. Delivery of transmissions from Bordeaux to other European plants is completed within 48 hours by the regular, scheduled services.

Ford estimates that when car markets are in a more normal condition it has more than 1,500 containers, rail wagons and "drop body" containers in service in Europe and that there are more than 12,000 tonnes of components in transit between the plants.

Flexibility

The system obviously involves some calculated risks and when Ford decided to "Europeanise" in this way it must have built considerable flexibility into it. After all, it was Ford which led the industry into dual-sourcing to protect itself should an important supplier get into difficulties. Components, sub-assemblies and even complete cars can be supplied from more than one place or substituted by similar products mada elsewhere.

Even so there were times when economies of scale dictated that there could be only one plant. There is, for example, the Ford Autolite plant in Belfast, the sole supplier of carhuretters and some other equipment for the whole of Ford's European operations, including tha new Escort.

What Ford has to balance in this complex supply chain is the cost benefits of producing components in economic quantities against the disadvantages of having so much "stock" in the long pipelines.

Perhapa the real test, as far as Ford is concerned, of whether or not the "world component" concept is valid will come with its next "world car," code-named Toni, which in Europa will replace the Cortina and Taunus.

Kenneth Gooding

The car: its specifications and range of versions

WITH THE new Escort, Ford has endeavoured to produce a world car capable of meeting needs ranging from those of the European sports-car driver, to tbe driver restricted to 55 mph on the arrow-straight U.S. highways, to the Australian pounding across unmade roads in the hinterlaod.

Perbaps not surprisingly, the different versions that have emerged do not have as many components in common as first envisaged, even if there have been substan*tial* savings on overall development costs when all markets are taken into account.

The U.S. Escort is nearly seven ioches longer, wider, has different body panels and because of emissions legislation —has poorer performance and higher fuel consumption than the European version. Beneath the skin, however, all models share the important new concept, for Ford, of a front-wheel drive car with fully iodependent suspension.

European drivers *are* offered the car in three hody styles—three-door and five-door hatcbbacks, and an estate and three engines. These include 1.1, 1.3 and 1.6 litres, the last in two stages of tuning.

For the UK and some other markets, the 1.1 litre engine, of 55 hhp, is derived from the existing Fiesta overhead valve pushrod eogine, while the larger units are the new CVH engines produced at Bridgend. The CVH engines have outputs of 69 hbp for the 1.3, and 79 bhp and 96 hbp for the 1.6 units.

As with the BL Mini, wbicb started the front-wheel drive revolution, the engines are mounted transversely to increase passenger and boot room.

At 1,687 lhs, the Escort is among the lightest io its class (the VW Golf weighs less at 1,653 lbs but is six inches sborter). With an aerodynamic drag coefficient of 0.385 (0.375 on the XR 3 sports model due in *November*), the oew Escort offers 15 per cent less wind resistance than the old model. However, it would appear unahle to match the claimed drag coeficient of 0.345 of its most "slippery" rival, Citreoo's GSA hatcbback.

The eogine drives througb a four-speed, all syncnromesh, two-shaft transmission developed from the Fiesta gearbox, but strengthened for tha 1.3 and 1.6 litre models. It is mounted co-axially to the engine, and thus lacks the ultimate space-saving of the BL concept of putting the box beneath the engine. But lt bas the advantage of greater mechanical simplicity. An automatic transmission developed for the U.S. car is expected to be availahle later.

The Escnrt is fitted with the McPherson strut frnnt suspension, pinneered at Fnrd, and a standard feature for many years However, its genmetry is entirely different from that of its Fiesta relative, the latter's negative scrub radius geometry baving been widely criticised for lack of feel. The Escort bas nominally zero scruh radius to cut steering effort and wheel kickback over ridges. Ford claims tbat stability in a straight line in the event of one tyre *deflating is* improved.

The other advantage of the Escort's front drive assembly is the claimed elimination of torque-steering experienced as a "tugging" at the steering wheel under *acceleration*, as the front wheels figbt to do their twin, simultaneous tasks of steering and driving.

Criticised

It is in the rear suspension that Ford has departed from all previous models, even the Fiesta. The latter was also criticised for the poor ride provided hy its non-independent heam rear-axle. Ford has opted instead for a simple hut apparently very effective three-link independent system in which almost-vertical damper struts, mounted outbnard nf separate springs, are located by pressed transverse arms and longitudinal tie-bars. Apart from minimal camber chaoges, the system avoids making any majnr intrusion into cabln or load space.

One of the car's more novel aspects is the installatinn of an integrated circuit to monitor the car's *functioning*, the first on a high volume model. It has heen developed in such a way as to run automatic checks on lts own validity. This eliminates the risk of fluid surges, which can give wrong readings on, say, oll or coolant levels. It also provides warning of wiring faults and brake-pad wear.

The company has also come up with a hetter anti-theft *system for the car. Ford claims* that a police "thief" took 20 times longer to enter the car without the proper key than it took him to beat other security systems.

Other features of the car include electronically stahilised iostruments and illuminated switches, which change colmr hetween the on and off positions.

As usual with Ford, the range is split lnto a number of different models offering varying grades of equipment and trim. There are basic 1.1 and 1.3 litre *versions in* all body *configurations*, slightly better-equipped "L" versions, covering all three engines except the 96 hbp 1.6 litre unlt; various 1.3 and 1.6 litre GL models, and the top-of-the-range Ghia versions. The 96 bbp unit is reserved exclusively for the XR 3 high-performahce car, to he sold from November.

A longish list of optlons includes electric windnw-lifters, central door-locking, electrically operated radio aerial and tilt-or-slide glass sunrnof.

John Griffiths

Project

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Familla, to be knewn ln Europe at the 323 and in tbe U.S. as the GLC. This car will be sold through Mazda networks.

The same car, with a few relatively minor changes to its front and rear panels and a Ford engine, will he made by Toyn for Ford either in built-up form nr in kits for shipment tn Ford assembly plants in the region. Australia will certainly have an assembly plant.

The Ford Laser will go on sale early next month, *starting* in Hong Kong and Singapore. The aim was to give Ford's dealer network in 35 Asia-Pacific countries—on the doorstep of the higbly-efficient Japanese *industry — a price-competitive* car in a market segment Ford believes is vital.

Ironically, bowever, Ford will be helping to strengthen the Japanese car industry—which it sees as its major *threat in* the future. Toyo'a output will be pushed well above the vital 1m-cars-a-year level because of the link with Ford, giving Japan not two, but three major producers.

But to cement its relationship with Toyo, Ford last September acquired a 25 per cent shareholding in the Japanese group for $55m.

Ford has also developed a new engine to be used in most of the Erika models and these are heing made at the Dearhnrn engine plant in the U.S. and at Bridgend in Wales. There could he another engine plant in Australia.

The two existing engine plants ultimately will have the capacity to produce 1.2m units a year.

There ls also a new automatic transmission which Ford has developed and claims can nearly match the standard of manual transmissions on the fuel consumption front. This will be made at Batavia, Ohio.

The American plants sbould turn out 550,000 Escort-Lynxes in the first full year—roughly 20 per cent of Ford's North American total. The European plants expect to achieve production of between 400,000 and 450,000—split roughly equally between the UK and West Germany—*representing* 32 per cent of Ford's output in Europe.

Potential

By the end of the second year the U.S. capacity ahould be up to an annual 1m. The poteotial in Europe is probahly the same.

In Europe, where Ford spent $1.1bn of the total, the Escort will compete with rivals such as the Volkswagen Golf, the Opel (or General Motors) Kadette, the Fiat Ritmo/Strada and the Talbot Horizon. It will also challenge such Japanese imports as the Datsun Sunny, the Toynta Cnrolla and the Honda Accord—and, of course the Mazda 323.

The Escort will be launched simultaneously in all the major European markets except for Spain and Portugal, where local lmport controls provide effective harriers.

In Europe Ford has built up a launch stock of about 20,000 cars at its 5,000 dealers: the network includes 1,900 in West Germany, 1,220 in Britain and 700 in France.

The Escort in Europe will offer three hody styles—threc and five-door hatchback verslons plus an estate car—and three choices of engine capaclty: 1,100 cc, 1,300 cc and 1,600 cc.

In some markets, includlng the UK, Norway, Deomark and Ireland, the 1,100 cc engine used will be a version of the Fiesta unit made in Valencla, Spain.

The Fiesta engine is cheaper than the Bridgend one partly because lt does not bave an aluminium cylinder head. Ford can therefore lower the price for the bottom-of-the-range Escort in Birtain for the fleet huyers who are the predominant purchasers of thia type of model.

Halewnod and Saarlouis will share production of the basic, the L. and the GL versinns of the Escort. Saarlouis will also produce the high-value Ghia and XR3 (sports) models while Halewond will take the main responsibility for the estate verslon and for the van when it is launched early next year.

There seems little douht that the new Escort will improve Ford's position in Europe, and its ability to make profits during the recession and beyond. In Germany, for example, the nld Eacort accounted for only around 0.7 per cent of total new car sales and the new model can be expected to do much hetter than that.

In the U.S., however, Ford'a new models face home-grown competition from Chrysler'a "K" cars, recently launched and a range whlch means life or death to Chrysler. La... General Motors' "J" cars will provide direct competition. Whether the American companies just take sales from each other (and from their larger, more profitable cars) or push hack the lmporters' market share remains to be aeen.

As one senior Ford executive commented recently: "For the auto manufacturer the stakes have never heen ao high, nor the returns so unpredictable."

The new Escort and its main rivals in Europe. (Old Escort's sales last year: 217,200).

From the left, the Renault 14 (1979 European sales 186,000), Talbot Horizon (206,900) and Fiat Ritmo/Strada (289,600)

From left to right, Alfa Romeo Alfasud (82,800) Opel Kadette/Astra (289,600) and Volkswagen Golf (475,700)

ROAD IMPRESSIONS OF THE NEW CARS

Lively performance and mechanical refinement

IF A SINGLE word bad to be used to summarise the new Escort's appeal, it is refinement. All four versions I drove last week from the 18-model line-up were as mechanically refined as any of their competitors, considerably more so than some.

The 1600GL 5-door I started with comes near the top of the price range at £4,518. Its engine and transmission wereso quiet that wben driving on a billy, winding road, it was easy to forget wbether one was in third gear or fourth.

Only at high speeds in the gears—and it was good for 35 mpn in first, 55 mpb in second and an illicit 80 mpb in third—was there any significant booming from tbe new, overbead camsbaft 1.6 litre engine. At more sensible speeds, it was as quiet as an executive car of twice its price. On the motorway, cruising at 70 mph, the radio was still easy to listen to without turning up the volume from its town driving level.

The lack of noise from the transmission was particnlarly impressive. Gear wbine can be a problem in front-drive, cross-engined cars but the Escort's gearbox and final drive were virtually noiseless, even wben suddenly accelerating and decelerating in quick succession.

Pick up in high gear from low speeds was brisk and smooth and the performance generally felt more than adequate for a 1.6 litre, five-seater with ample lnggage space. So, for the engine/transmission package, the marks must be Alpha-plus.

The steering, too, was excellent. It was reasonably ligbt at low speeds, with an adequate lock, and silkily precise when driving fast. Like all front-drive cars, the Escort understeers. That is to say it bas to be beld into a corner to overcome its desire to go straigbt on and maintain a good line on a windy motorway or when passing speeding juggernauts.

Roadholding

Unlike some of its competitors, it never understeers to excess. *Cornered at far above* average speeds, it rolls hardly at all and it is not necessary to pnt on more and more lock to get round. When tyre adhesion finally goes, the rear slides very gently outwards. People wbo indulge in motor sporting fantasies especially wben driving alone, will not be disappointed by the Escort.

The one aspect of the new car that failed to match expectations was its ride. Ford bas chosen a sophisticated all-independent suspension system. *It is neither disagreeably firm* nor over-soft. Yet it allows some sbarp vertical movement to develop in the important 30 mpb to 50 mpb speed range on less than perfectly surfaced roads. Unfortunately, the seat springing seems to aggravate matters.

Curiously enough, the Escort bebaves very well indeed on really rough roads. I drove down one potholed and broken gravel track at between 40 mph and 45 mpb without making the suspension touch bottom. Later I rode as a rear passenger over a similar road with equal satisfaction.

Ford has a history of not quite getting its rear suspension rigbt with new models. The first Granada was awful but the latest ones are fine. Bnth the old Escort and the current Cortina provide at hest an indifferent rear seat ride. No doubt the Escort will improve over the years.

I found the Escnrt 1600GL *five-door hatchback's* driving position extremely comfortable, with the rigbt relationship between seat, wbeel and pedals. *The gearsbift is slick and sweet,* the clutch light, the brakes powerful and progressive. Instruments are clearly visible through tbe four-spoked steering wheel (but wby a clock with hands, not electronic digits, I wonder?) and the steering column controls for lights, indicators, wipers and so on are ideally placed.

The trim, in dark, ribbed cloth, had a sombre elegance, relieved by the ligbt pouring tbrough the glass sunroof. This can be tilted at the back or wound fully open and, should the sun be too bright, a sbade can be pulled forward, as in the Honda Prelnde.

It is an easy car to enter and leave. The doors are of a good size and open wide. Once In, headroom is generous for the front seats, much less so for those in the hack. But, even with the driving seat set well back to suit my long legs, I could still sit comfortably behind it. There are not many cars of the Escort's size of wbicn I could say the same.

Moving down the range a little, I next tried the 1300L *three-door*. This bas the new overbead camshaft engine, though of smaller capacity. The difference in performance was not all that marked though one might notice it more four or five up, with a full load of lnggage. Tbe interior looked a little less grand than the 1600GL's but the cbeck seats were every bit as comfortable. The front seat beadrests were still bollow in the middle but there was no central console, witb its useful cubbyhole for a tape recorder or cassettes.

The smaller engine was not quite as willing to pull hard from 20 mph in top gear but the car was as refined and well-balanced as the 1600. Speeds in the gears were lower, too, though the 1300 still comfortably exceeded 70 mph in third. For £3,865 I would have expected a trip setting on the mileage recorder. The fresh air ventilation, aided hy a fan at lower speeds, was effective. On the motorway, the 1300 cruised as happily and was as quiet as the larger-engined Escort.

Next, I moved still further down to a 1100L. Tbis has almost the same eogine as the Ford Fiesta. The transmission was as refined as ever though the engine was less self-effacing. The ride was no different in the 1100L than it had been in tbe far-costlier 1600GL, but I found the deficiencies more acceptable. After all, wbat one takes exception to in a £4,500-plus car seems understandable in one costing almost £1,000 less.

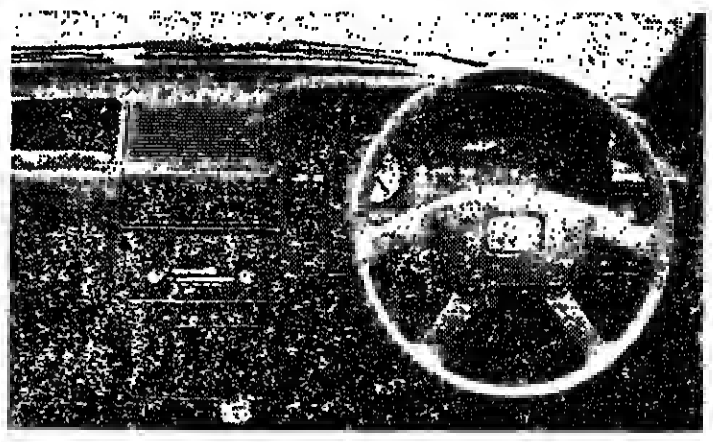
There was more road noise in the 1100L tban in the up-market models, whicb bad shown a notable lack of tyre thump, but it was still perfectly satisfactory. The car felt a little lighter and less solid than the 1300 and 1600, presumably because not so much sound damping material is used, but the noise level generally was good and, like all the cars I drove, there was no wind roar to complain ahout.

Finally, I tried the 1100 Escort three-door, the most *basic model* of the wbole range. The bright red paintwork contrasted cheerfully with the black seats and carpets the colour of regulation grey flanoel trousers. It was a functional though not spartan interior. Even though the central vents bad been eliminated, enougb fresh-air came in to allow the windows to stay shut on a warm day

Ford seems to bave made considerable economies in sound absorbing materials to keep the base model's price down to £3,374. There was quite a lot of rumbling and booming when driving over secondary roads, for example. I thought this Escort bad more in common with the base model Fiesta than it had with its better-equipped larger-engined and, of course, far more expensive up-market relative, tbe Escort 1600GL I bad driven earlier in the day.

But, those ride problems excepted, I rate the Escorts an outstanding addition to the current crop of family hatchbacks.

Stuart Marshall



Good road-holding precise steering and quiet transmission mark the Escort GL . . . inside the Ghia, head- and leg-room are surprisingly generous

Design needs to appeal to fleet managers

SIR TERENCE BECKETT looks back on the Cortina as perhaps his biggest single contribution to Ford UK, chairmansbip of which be bas changed for the director-general's seat at the Confederation of British Industry.

The Cortina concept, of a *roomy but cheap conventional* saloon, has stood Ford in very good stead since its launch at the start of the 1960s, well ahead of *similar* rivals. Not only was it cheap to make—and still is—because of its simple front engine/rear drive specification: *fleet managers* were also convinced in their thousands that this same simplicity meant cheaper operating costs than complex *front-wbeel-drive* cars.

The Escort—until now a smaller Cortina with the same simplicity—has scored almost the same degree of success, with nearly half its sales in the fleet market.

With the launch today of the new Escort, Ford has tbe task of convincing fleet managera that this roomier, llgbter front-wheel-drive version will be considerably cheaper to run than the old one. *The new Escort is* not Ford's first front-wbeel-drive car, of course. But the small Fiesta batcbback, launcbed in 1976, *has been sold mainly* in the private market where the buyer, though equally cost conscious, is likely to give the car be bas *bought with his own* hard-won cash far less of a thrashing than it would get from the company rep.

Clearly, with a car on whicb Ford has staked so much—it quotes alliteratively, if not quite accurately, five years' development by 5,000 engineers, at a cost of £500m for the car and £500m for the engines—it is essential that the fleet managers are convinced, at least until such time as the Cortina and all its immediate rivals go fwd (and most will have done by 2½ years' time) and the managers are left with no choice.

Ford is using what on paper looks like some strong cost-of-ownership arguments. It claims that over 50,000 miles, the most frequent fleet replacement mileage, the new Escort is about one-fifth less expensive to maintain than its nearest rival.

The car has been designed to allow engine seals, gaskets, camshaft and main hearings to be replaced without removing the engine. At the same time, the transmission *is* lubricated for life, as are the steering and suspension. The result, Ford claims, is that servicing averages out at just under four bours a year over 50,000 miles on the 1100cc model and about 2.3 hours a year on the 1,300cc and 1,600cc models fitted witn the new, Bridgend-produced, CVH engines described elsewhere in this survey.

The most *immediately striking* aspect of the car, however, is that altbougb it is a batchback, it does not look like one. Since Ford had resisted the forward hatchback trend longer than most, it was faced with a considerable prohlem: it wanted an aerodynamically efficient car—which the hatchback is—without looking like just another VW Golf, Renault 5, etc.

On the other hand, the "three-box" approach, wbich offered the best prospect for *individuality, meant the loss of* hatchback versatility and inferior aerodynamics.

The compromise result was wbat *Ford calls the "bustle"* —the bobbed tail which turns the Escort into a batchback, fastback and notchback rolled into one.

Adoption of the shape allowed Ford to meet its requirement for an aerodynamic drag coefficient of below 0.4, obtain its individuality and—almost as a bonus — largely eliminate one of the more irritating prohlems *with batchbacks*, grime thrown on to the rear window.

The problem with most batchbacks is bow to persuade air to flow cleanly down and away from the rear window without creating drag and grime-provoking turbulence. With the new Escort, the hustle is claimed to confine turbulence below the back window. In addition Ford claims that the two spiral trails of turbulence formed behind all cars and caused by air streams from the roof and sides meeting have been persuaded to turn inwards on eacb other, making the area of turbulent wake smaller than *that of* tbe car, so reducing drag further.

The result is a drag coefficient for the standard Escort of 0.385, *and 0.375* for the high performance XR3 version, which goes on sale in November. This is 15 per cent better than the old Escort, and Ford claims that a 10 per cent improvement in drag produces an average 3.5 per cent improvement in miles per gallon.

The figures are helped by the front grille design, whicb first appeared on the Cortina, in whicb at higher speeds air is diverted from the engine bay over the car, an important factor since, according to Ford, air drag througb the engine bay can account for up to 15 per cent of the total.

At 156.3 ins overall length, the new Escort is fractionally shorter than the replaced model, but well over 200 pounds lighter, with a kerb weight for the 1,100 cc version of 1,687 lbs.

The saving bas been achieved by extensive use of computer body stress analysis, made possible by the linking at the end of 1978 of the engineering centres at Merkenicb in Germany and Dunton in the UK with Ford's central Cyber 176 computer in Dearborn.

Weight-saving was a priority in tbe Escort's design, being a major factor in improved economy particularly during acceleration. The Cyber computer allowed Ford to build a computer model of the body with 3,200 "components" to simulate tbe body and wbat would happen to it under stress.

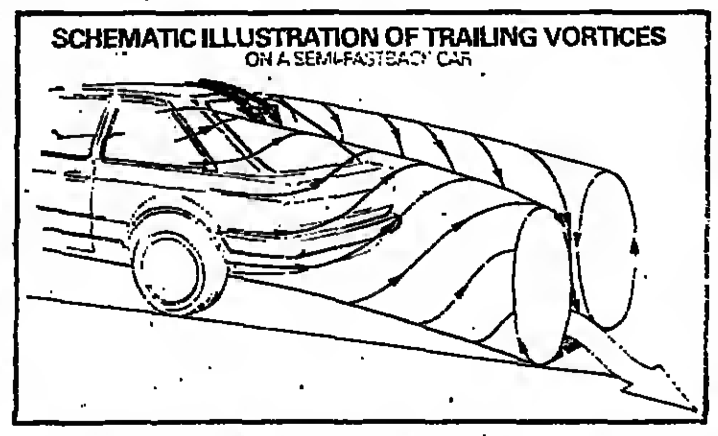
The result—42 prototypes later—was a final shell in which pressings down to 0.8mm for low-stress areas have allowed Ford to get within ahout 5 lbs of the original target weight and still pass impact tests with ease.

A considerable amount of weight *was* also saved by the adoption of 3mm, rather than 4mm, glass.

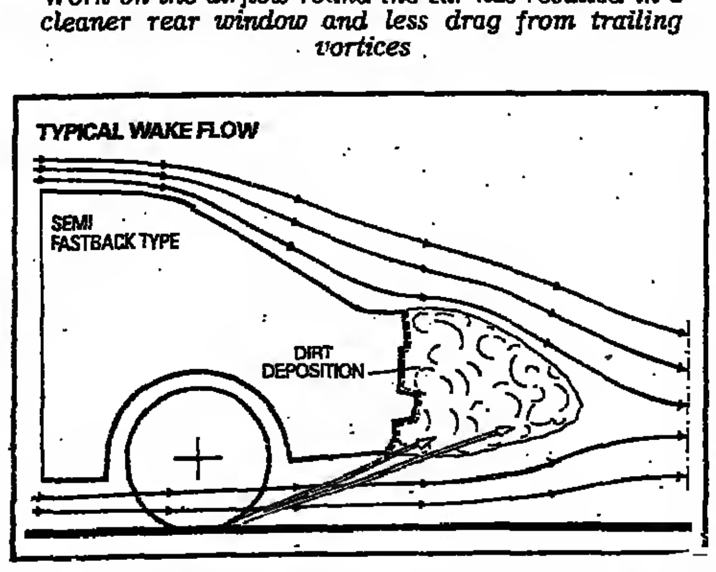
All these factors are reflected in the performance figures of the cars, which show significant improvements over the old Escort versions. The new 1100 Escort is claimed to achieve 49.5 miles per gallon at a constant 56 mph; 36.2 mpg at a constant 75 mph and 34.9 mpg in urban driving.

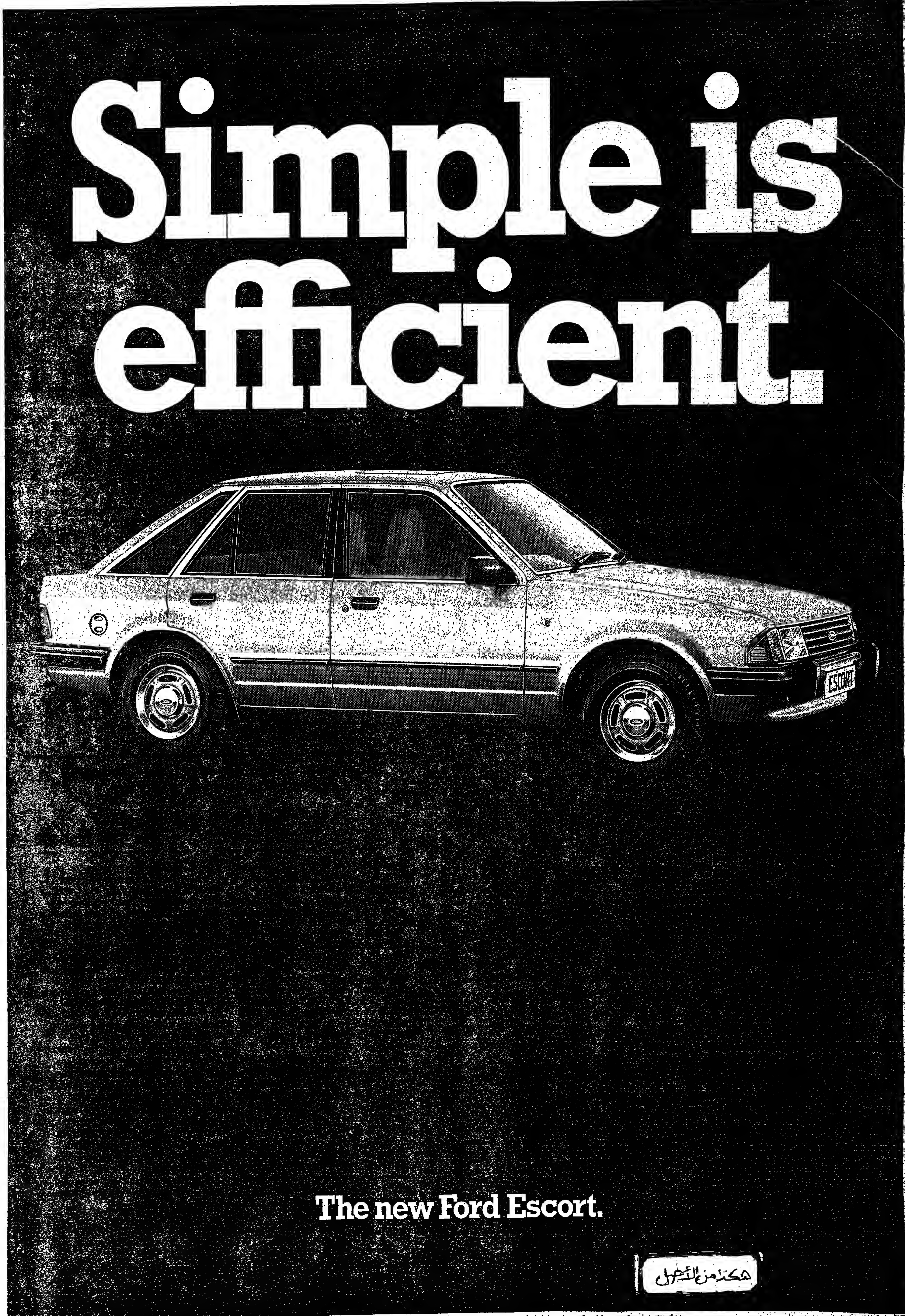
The improvement is perhaps best illustrated, however, by the comparative performance of the old and new "sports" models. The "old" 2-litre RS200 was credited with a top speed of *108 mph* with 0-60 acceleration of 8.5 seconds from an engine developing 110 bhp. Its replacement, the RX3, has *1.6 litres,* "only" 96 bhp, yet has identical acceleration and a higher top speed of 113 mph.

John Griffiths



Work on the airflow round the car has resulted in a cleaner rear window and less drag from trailing vortices




Simple is efficient.
ESCORT
The new Ford Escort.

Anatomy of an efficient car

The new Ford Escort is a spacious front wheel drive hatchback with a transverse engine and all independent suspension.

It can carry five people in comfort.

With the biggest engine it can do over 44 mpg at 56 mph. And with the smallest engine it achieves over 90 mph*.

Service intervals are 12,000 miles with an interim service at 6,000 miles. It's designed to be one of the cheapest cars to service in its class.

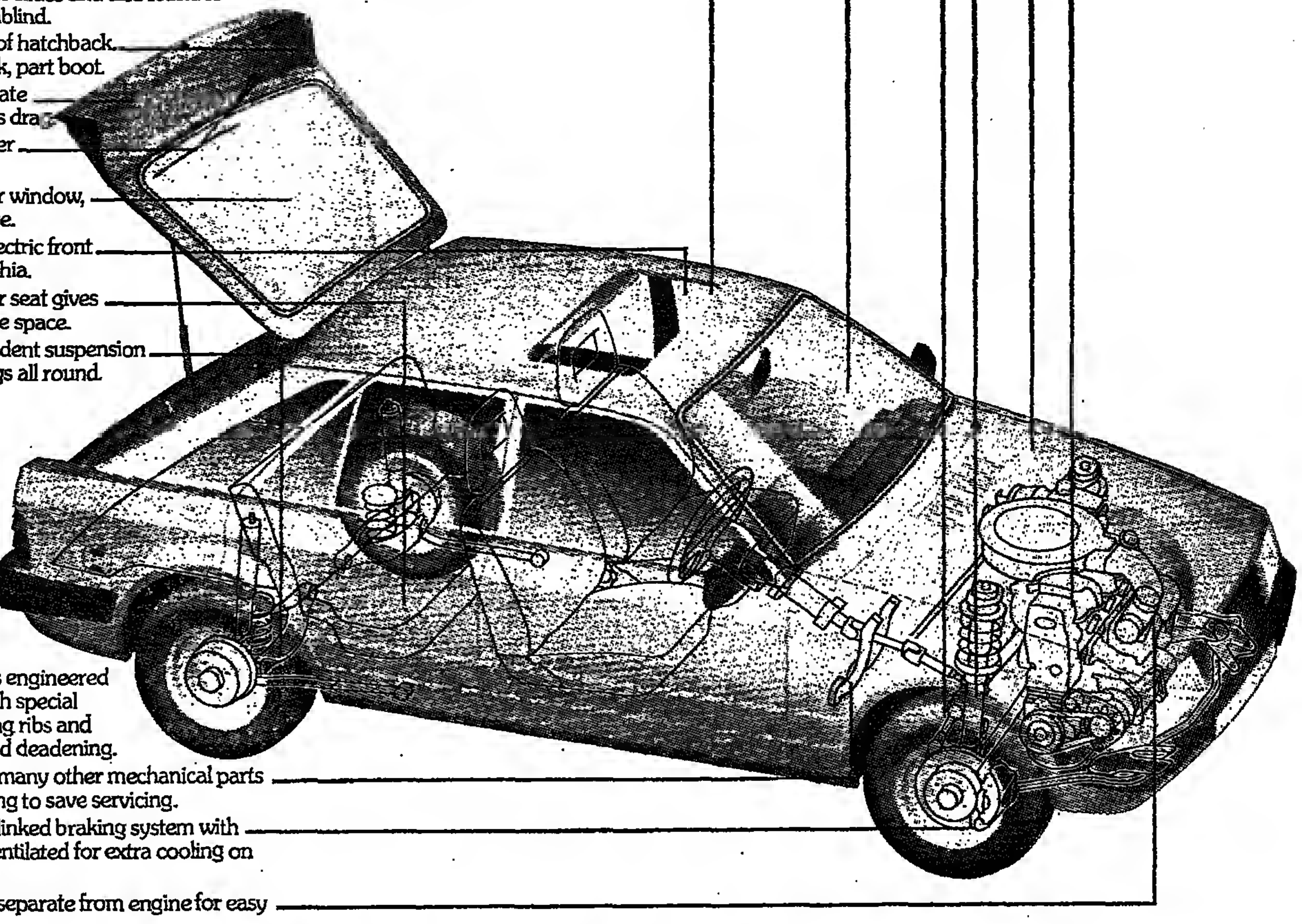
And the body is protected by a 20 stage anti-corrosion programme.

How have we achieved such remarkable efficiency? In engineering, simple is efficient. So we've kept the engineering in the new Escort as simple and straightforward as possible.

Engineers call it looking for the elegant solution. It takes sophisticated technology to find it.

Here then, step by step, is the story of the new Ford Escort. Simply one of the most efficient cars you can buy.

1 Ultra efficient new transversely mounted engines give remarkable performance and economy.
2 Latest technology applied to anti corrosion treatment.
3 Front wheel drive for good traction, road holding and directional stability.
4 Rack and pinion steering – accurate, precise and responsive.
5 Large glass area with laminated windscreen and slim window pillars gives panoramic visibility. Tinted glass optional.
6 Optional screened glass sun roof (standard on Ghia) tilts or slides and also features an interior sunblind.
7 A new kind of hatchback. Part hatchback, part boot.
8 Integral tailgate spoiler reduces drag.
9 Tailgate wiper (optional).
10 Heated rear window, on L and above.
11 Optional electric front windows on Ghia.
12 Folding rear seat gives flexible luggage space.
13 All independent suspension with coil springs all round.



14 Quietness is engineered into the car with special engine stiffening ribs and extensive sound deadening.
15 Clutch and many other mechanical parts are self-adjusting to save servicing.
16 Diagonally linked braking system with front discs – ventilated for extra cooling on faster models.
17 Gearbox is separate from engine for easy maintenance.

Transverse engine and front wheel drive makes more space for people.

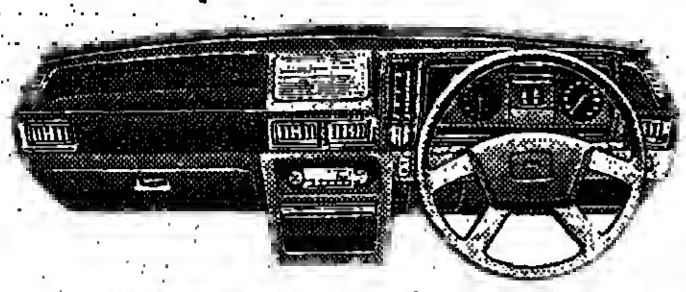
The simplest way to enlarge the passenger space without enlarging the car is to make the engine space smaller.

So, based on a wealth of experience with the Fiesta, we've mounted the engine sideways and given it front wheel drive.

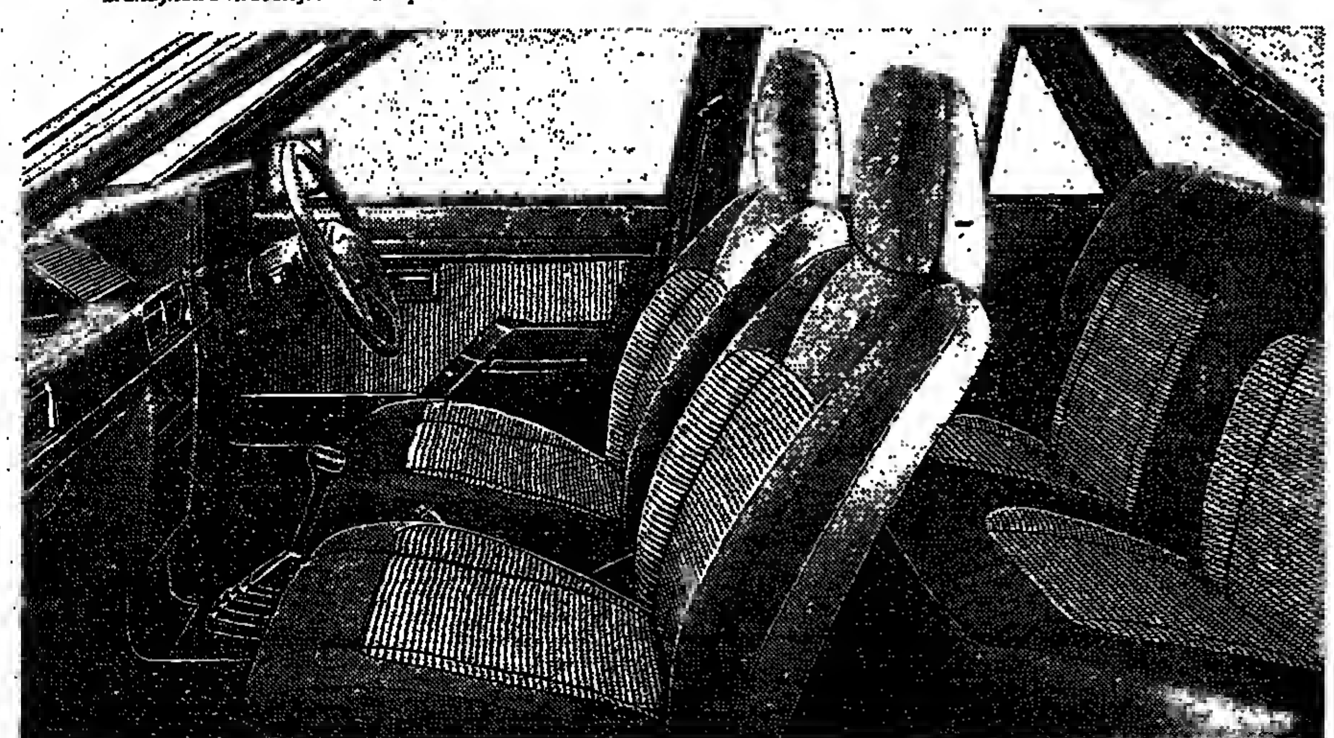
This eliminates the transmission tunnel and the rear axle differential, thus leaving more room for you and your luggage. Incidentally it also saves weight and improves traction.

The Escort's seats have coil springs tuned to the car's suspension and they're deeply contoured to give comfortable support and reduce fatigue.

Among the more luxurious equipment you can order in the new Escort Ghia are electric front windows, stereo radio/tape player with electric aerial, central door locking, tinted glass and headlamp washers.



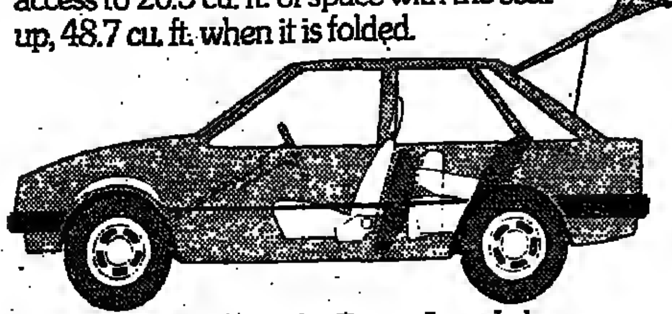
As a safety check Ghia and GL instruments include warning lights for low oil, water, windscreen washers, brake fluid and even front brake pad wear.



Interior of Escort Ghia. Standard features include remote control driver and passenger door mirrors, a digital clock with date and stop watch functions and a screened glass sun roof that either tilts or slides.

The hatchback that thinks it has a boot

The Escort has a new kind of hatchback. At first glance it looks as if there is a conventional boot. But the tailgate actually opens all the way up to the top of the back window, giving access to 20.3 cu. ft. of space with the seat up, 48.7 cu. ft. when it is folded.



For security, on the Escort L and above there is a removable shelf which hides your valuables.

Up to 47 mpg. Up to 104 mph from ultra efficient new engines*

Drawing on the experience of ten years with the previous Escort, Ford have designed entirely new 1.3 and 1.6 litre engines with aluminium cylinder heads.

There are no contact points to replace in the ignition system. The tappets are self-adjusting, so they always stay in tune. The variable venturi carburettor supplies the optimum fuel/air mixture at all speeds. The choke operates itself automatically and there is a thermostatically controlled fan which can save up to 10 bhp.

There is also a 1.1 litre engine available. This is based on the economical proven Fiesta engine fitted with a variable venturi carburettor.

The new Escort is not only more economical than its predecessor, but faster too.

*Performance and economy

Government fuel consumption test figures	Constant 56 mph (90 km/h) (mpg)	Constant 56 mph (90 km/h) (litres/100 km)	Top speed (mph)†
1.1 HC	49.6	5.7	90.1
1.3 HC	47.1	6.0	97.6
1.6 HC (IV)	44.1	6.4	103.8
Simulated urban cycle 1.1 HC 34.9 mpg (8.1 litres/100 km) 1.3 HC 30.4 mpg (9.3 litres/100 km) 1.6 HC 30.7 mpg (9.2 litres/100 km)	Constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 36.2 mpg (7.8 litres/100 km) 36.7 mpg (7.7 litres/100 km) 34.4 mpg (8.2 litres/100 km)		†Ford computed figures

12,000 miles between major services

The new Escort has so many self-adjusting and maintenance free features that it almost services itself. These features mean that it can go 12,000 miles between major services with only an interim service at 6,000 miles.

In fact, based on studies comparing routine servicing costs with competitive cars, Ford estimate that the new Escort will be cheaper to service than most of its rivals.

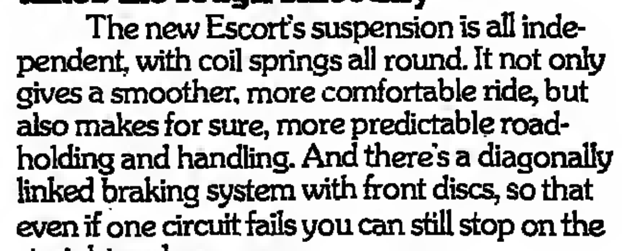
Here's why: **1** Self-adjusting clutch. **2** Self-adjusting brakes. **3** Self-adjusting tappets and breakerless ignition (on 1.3 and 1.6 engines). **4** Maintenance free wheel bearings. **5** Lubricated-for-life suspension, steering and door hinges. **6** Brake wear checking without removing wheels. **7** Centrally located fuses and relays. **8** Exterior bulbs replaced without tools. **9** See-through brake and clutch fluid containers. **10** Extended interval battery topping-up.

Latest technology applied to rust prevention

This is how we help keep rust at bay: After zinc phosphate anti-corrosion treatment, the body is given two coats of primer, then three coats of tough enamel paint are baked on. Window surrounds are made of aluminium which cannot rust. And the bonnet is made of zinc plated steel. Rust traps are designed out of the body. Box sections and door bottoms are protected by wax injection. Lower body panels are painted with a chip protection primer. And wheel arches and vulnerable underbody areas are treated with chip resistant PVC coating. The remaining underbody area gets a tough wax anti-corrosion sealant to protect against salt.

Styling used to be an art. Today at Ford it's a science

We call it "air flow management," the science of controlling the flow of air over, around and under the car. Thanks to efficient "air flow management" the new Escort emerged from the wind tunnel with a drag coefficient of only 0.385, the most efficient in its class. At 70 mph as much as 70% of a car's energy can be wasted simply overcoming wind resistance, so streamlined design contributes significantly towards reducing fuel consumption.



1 Integral tailgate spoiler reduces drag, and the whole rear end design creates an actively managed area of turbulence that keeps spray and dirt off the back window whilst driving. **2** Front spoiler improves directional stability. **3** Aerodynamic radiator grille channels air over bonnet at high speed.

All independent suspension takes the rough smoothly

The new Escort's suspension is all independent, with coil springs all round. It not only gives a smoother, more comfortable ride, but also makes for sure, more predictable road-holding and handling. And there's a diagonally linked braking system with front discs, so that even if one circuit fails you can still stop on the straight and narrow.

See the new Ford Escorts at your Ford dealers now. And test drive an efficient car.

Range and Prices Escort 1.1 litre from £3374. Escort L 1.1 litre from £3695. Escort GL 1.3 litre from £4211. Escort Ghia from £4726.
Maximum prices as at 26th Sept, 1980. Seat belts, car tax and VAT included. Delivery and number plates at extra cost.

FORD ESCORT

UK market share nearing 30 per cent

FORD'S PROGRESS *to become* undisputed car market leader in Britain over the past five years or so is a remarkable achievement. It sbows what can be dnne if one company gets the majority ef decisions right while all around its rivals are getting nearly everything wrong.

Last year, when new car registrations in the UK reached a record 1.71m, Ford pushed up its market share from 24.65 to 28.29 per cent. This year it is going for 32 per cent. By the end of August it was slightly adrift of this target mainly because Japanese penetration bad sbot ahead.

If the Japanese, as expected, bold back for the rest of the year, Ford should meet its target for 1980. Next year it could get 33 per cent, mainly because of the impact of the new Escort.

Not that the nld model was doing too badly. Last year all of Ford's range—and it covers all but the "mini" market—featured in the British "top ten." The Cortina (with sales nf 193,784) was in first place. Second was tbe old Escort (131,667). Then, after a big gap, came BL's 21-year-old Mini (82,938), the *Marina (62,140)*, the Allegro (59,681), follnwed by Ford's Fiesta (58,681, although it was in shnrt supply in Europe for mucb of the year) and the Granada (52,091). Then the Ford Capri (49,147) with two Vauxhalls, tbe Cavalier (46,157) and the Chevette (44,197), completing the list.

The key element in Ford's rise to domioation of the British market was th edecision in 1974-75, in the depths of the post-oil crisis, which had hit the industry worldwide, to carry on the company's heavy investment programme — a decision for which the main board in Dearborn was ultimately responsible.

While that recession was driving the old British Leyland into bankruptcy and to the Government for State aid; wbile Chrysler got deeper and deeper into financial difficulties with its UK operations; and while Geoeral Motors was deciding to switcb the headquartrs of its car business to Germany, Ford got on with *making* cbanges to all *its* models. *It* also introduced a brand new model to its range —the Fiesta.

The UK market aloee could not possibly bave justified the investment Ford made in the Fiesta. But by the mid-1970s it had about seven years' experience of working as a European business. And because it could treat tbe *European market* as a whole Ford could see the Fiesta as a worthwhile project and could justify the investmeot in improving other models in the range.

Disputes

With BL, the market leader, in a state of disarray and without the cars to please enough buyers, Ford was able to forge ahead. The European structure also paid off when, as bappened all too often, industrial disputes within the British car industry or its suppliers left other UK manufacturers sbort of product.

Ford was able to import cars assembled in other European countries to cope with peaks in demand nr *shortages* at UK factories. This process reached a peak last year wben about half of all the new Ford cars registered in Britain were assembled outside the country. Without the pan-European approacb Ford could not bave kept up with the *unexpectedly high* demand in 1979.

Another factor in Ford's progress *was the way* the company car or flaet market hecame more and more important in the UK. According to a receot British Institute of Management survey, seven nut of ten new cars purchased in Britain are hought with company cash.

Once again *Ford* bad the right products to appeal to the fleet market. The company says that half of all tbe old Escorts sold in the UK were sold to fleets while Cortina sales to fleets are runniog st 60 per cent (to Ford a "fleet" is one of more than 25 *cars*).

Ford's marketiog men sold its cars to the fleets on the basis that the "total cost of operatioo" was lower than anyone else could matcb. This "total cost" package lovolved not nnly the initial price hut also the low cost of *servicing*, reliability plus—perbaps the most vital element—relatively low depreciatioo compared with most other makes.

FORD IN BRITAIN

Plants

HALEWOOD	(Escort assembly, transmissions etc.)
BASILDON	(agricultural tractors; *engine, radiator, suspension* and axle parts)
BELFAST	(carburettors and distributors)
BRIDGEND	(CVH engines)
CROYDON	(small stampings)
DAGENHAM	*(Cortina and Fiesta assembly. Engines etc.)*
ENFIELD	(instrument clusters, etc.)
LANGLEY	(commercial vehicle assembly, etc.)
LEAMINGTON	(engine, brake, transmission parts)
SOUTHAMPTON	(Transit assembly)
SWANSEA	(axles, brakes, gearboxes)
TREFOREST	(spark plug insulators)
WOOLWICH	(engine and transmission parts)

	1978	1979
Sales	£2.363bn	£3.193bn
Taxable profits	£242m	£347m
Output: cars	324,407	398,684
Output: commercials	106,472	167,232
Employees (year end)	63,000	75,000

According to tha Department of Industry in an announcement made in December 1978 Ford was expected to invest £1bn in Britain in the suhsequent four years, inclnding £600m nn the Erika project. The UK Gnvernment was to cootribute nearly £150m by way nf £75m in interest relief grants nnder the 1972 Indnstry Act's selective regional incentives and £73m automatic regional development grants paid in assisted areas.

Ford sbowed its dealers how to keep the "*residual* value" of its cars at a reasonable level by the way it dealt with its own used cars—as you can imagine Ford itself oses many company *cars and has one* of the biggest "disposal" problems. Ford takes great care to keep track of the cars it has to *sell* and makes sure that oot too many of similar type and specification reach the secondhand market at one time to create a glut.

It persuaded its dealers that they sbould eocourage the fleet buyers to spread their purchases across *six* to *nioe* months of the year instead of huying all their requirements in one lump towards the beginning.

This meant that when cars were replaced, not too many came back to the dealer at once and ofteo be was able to dispose of *them through* his own forecourt rathar than send large numbers off to auction where the prices they fetched were not so high.

Ford also encouraged its dealers to persuade fleet customers to change their cars more often. Instead of bolding on to a car for three years, by which tima the mileage and depreciation were very high, fleet managers were encouraged to turn the cars in after twn years, or even one year, for much higber "residuals."

So Ford's dealer network played a great part in the rise and rise of the group in Britain. Ford UK's director of car sales, Mr. Ernia Thompson, says: "We bave to pay tribute to our dealers. *They* put in the *investment* so that they were able to sell and service twice the number of cars last year as they bandled five years before."

Mr. Thompson predicts that, given that the old Escort captured betweeo 7 and 8 per cent of UK total new car sales, the new model shnuld reach 9 or even 10 per cent.

The old Escort's best year was 1976 wben Ford changed the Cortina and the supply shortages which usually accompany such changes allowed the Escort into first place in the British market with a 10.4 per cent share. Last year the Escort got a respectable 7.7 per cent.

And in the first eight months of this year the old model won 7.3 per cent, far ahead of its rivals in wbat Ford calls the "C" *class cars. For example,* the Vauxhall Chevette achieved a 3.2 per cent share in the January-August period this year, the Austin Allegro 2.6 per cent followed by two Datsuns, the Sunny, 2.3 per cent and the Cherry, 2.2 per cent.

In all, "C" class cars accounted for 30.6 per cent of the UK market nver the first eight months of 1980. Mr. Thompson expects the market segment to grow to around one third of total salas, belped on its way by the new Escort.

The major question about the new Escort's arrival—and the major marketing challenge for Ford UK—is how many buyers will substitute an Escort for another Ford they would have bought?

Mr. Thompson reckons that the Escort will take a little—but not much—from Fiesta by this "cannibilisation" process.

Much more vulnerable is the Cortina *which, in spite of* last year's "facelift," is becoming a little long in the tooth by modern car standards.

But the Cortina still appeals to may fleet buyers because it has the traditional "three box" shape, inclnding a boot at the back which companies still seem to prefer.

Then perbaps Ford made a marketing mistake by carrying on the Escort name with the new model. In most company hlerarchies the Escort has been the "downmarket" car compared with the Cortina. Those people entitled to a Cortina because of their status within the corporate ranks might be reluctant to accept a new Escort, however good it turns out to be.

The fleet market is also notoriously conservative and many buyers will adopt a "wait and see" policy about Ford's new Escort because it has front-wheel-drive, snmething which in the past has often provided servicing problems. When the engine is driving the rear wheels of a car the manufacturer does not *have to put* so much metal under the bonnet. And the machinery is less complex with rear-wheel-drive.

However, the Fiesta, which was Ford's first *front-wheel-*drive car, has proved reliable and not particularly difficult to service.

Ford never meant Fiesta to be a *fleet car* and in 1977 only 7 per cent of Fiestas sold in the UK went to corporations. This year, though, the percentage is upto 25 per cent so there are a *good number of* fleet managers whn now have Fiestas and whose doubts about front-wheel-driva have been allayed.

Suggestions

Also, Ford involved a number of fleet buyers very early *in the development of the* new Escort and they returned again and again to make their contributions and suggestions.

Mr. Thompson maintains that the new Escort gives the company access to a much wider variety of potential private buyers *than the old one.* For example, the XR3 sports version to he introduced in November will cover a wider market area than the old Escort RS ever could.

And the wider choice of optional extras for the new Escort —such as power windows, sun roofs with shields and so on—should attract bnyers away from some imported *models of those* people who for fuel-economy reasons are moving down from the "CD," or family-sized, cars bnt only because they can have the same amount of room and interior comfort.

Mr. Thompson says that if *Ford gets its marketing right* it could have two cars each with 10 per cent of Britain's new car market next year. But ha expects that the Cortina will just keep its place as the best-selling car in Britain.

K.G.

Halewood aims to improve productivity

FORD HAS spent £207m, one of the company's biggest European investment projects, at its Halewood plant oo Merseyside, often the problem child in the group's European *family*. Of the total, about £130m was directly associated with the Erika project.

Halewood started life 17 years ago making the Anglia and until recently bas been turning ont the old-style Escort as its sole vehicle.

It was to be assumed that the plant would be given the job of produciog the Escort's successor bnt the fact that the U.S. Board sbould have given the go-ahead to the investment programme—and recently to bave authorised a further £135m to he spent hy 1985 — suggests it is giving more weight to recent indications of a change of mood among the Merseyside workforce rather than the cbequered past history of disputes and low productivity.

It is certainly true that the British Governmeot is fairly generous with investmeot grants and that Britain's tax structure *is particularly* kind to corporations which are profitable. But Ford has a lot at stake with the new Escort and if tbe car is anything like *as* successful as the group bopes, Halewood will bave to perform well hoth as far as continuity of production and quality are cooceraed.

Halewood will be sharing with its sister plant, Saarlouis in Germany, assembly of three-door and five-door versions of the new Escort in its basic L. and GL form. It will also be the main supplier of estate versions and tbe only plant where the new Escort van, due for introduction early next year, will be produced.

Thanks to the new Escort, the Halewood assembly plant stands out amoog its neighbours, every one of which is on sbort-time working — including Ford's Halewood traosmission manufacturing plant next door.

However, Mr. Arthur Rothwell, a local *man* who has *been* 17 years workiog his way up the ladder at Halewood to become general manager, has made a number of important points io recent discussions with the workforce.

First, Ford cannot be a "godfather" to Merseyside and invent extra jobs to cut the local 15 per cent unemployment rate — rising to a *hideous* 35 per cent in Speke wbere the plant is located — in an area wbere other companies are announcing redundancies with *sickening* regularity.

Protect

Secondly, he bas told employees that the buge iovestment does not even protect existing job numbers. As *further* modero *technology is* introduced to the body and assembly plants the numbers of people needed will go down.

And Mr. Rothwell has made the *point bluntly that productivity* must improve at least to tbe best European standards and that Halewood must achieve the engineering standards Ford has *set itself for the Escort*—and the unions bave already committed themselves to this.

One of the changes made by Mr. Rothwell and his team was in the way *information* was disseminated to the employees. Information used to be passed down througb various layers of management and the message was put across only as well as each individual passing it on was able to communicate it. And communication skills vary tremendously from ooe man to the next.

Mr. Rothwell and his management team now talk directly tn the shopfloor and other employees. Tbey are brought together in groups of 300, not an ideal number but necessary because 11,000 are employed at tbe Halewood body and assembly plants.

This process bas encured that all employees were giveo full information about the introductioo of the oew Escort as the decisions were made. "They might not bave liked everything we inteoded to do, hut they did oot get any nasty, suddeo surprises when we did them."

The meetings were designed to enable the employees to ask questioos and provide the management with some feedback on the proposals.

Benefit

One major incidental beoefit has already been felt. It involves the 22 press lines in Halewood's press shop. Six of the new presses are 1,000 tonners, supplied by Vickers *from a Schuler design*, and costing £1m each. Between them the press lines help produce 110,000 panels a day — 297 different types of panel not only for Halewood but also fnr Ford plants at Sonthamptoo, Dagenham, Cologne, Saarlouis aod Genk. The Halewood press shop will be using 500 to 600 tonnes of steel eacb day.

At one of the briefing sessions, the man whose task it *will be to collect the scrap* which accumulates under the presses, claimed to a somewbat disbelieving management that he had thought of a better way to do the job. He was able quickly to prove his point when they went down to the lines and his *suggestion* will be followed.

Mr. Rothwell says that Ford put "quality of product" at the top of the list of priorities wheo consideriog what oew technology to bring to Halewood aod what other cbanges to make for the Erika.

Improvemeots in productivity and other benefits followed naturally.

For example, Ford has at Halewood more robots than BL at *Longbridge, 39* compared with 30, but is not taking tbis type of automation so far along the body assembly process. (By the way, Ford does oot refer to the machines as "robots" but calls them UTDs — for "universal transfer devices.")

Ford maintains that where *there is flat welding* to be *done* it is cost-effective tn do it hy conventional methods. It wanted, bowever, to automate the welding of those areas where complex *shapes* aod structures were involved — like side panels, the underbody and eogine compartment.

Previously these welding jobs were carried out with the aid of a carousel which moved the metal past welders, each one workiog from one particular place alongside. Tbe equipment was expensive to maintain and it was difficult to achieve continuous accuracy.

One way of overcoming that problem was to "over-engineer" the car involved — the old Escort — and consequently it had areas wbere there was more metal than really was required. The *introduction of UTDs* has not only enabled men to be shifted to other parts of the plaot, it has also enabled the oew Escort to be built to tighter tolerances, using less metal. And less metal means less weight. Less weight should mean more miles per gallon for the customers.

Of Halewood's 39 UDTs, 36 are used in "body-in-white" operations including three for standby and training purposes. They include 26 Nimak machines (£45,000 each), 11 Kuka robots (£75,000 each) and two made by Unimate (£35,000 each).

By January the expectation is tbat output of new Escorts at Halewood will be getting up to the capacity level of 1,015 a day, representing an *annual* rate of 235,000, more than the plant bas ever achieved before. The best was nearly 1,000 a day. But tbe new Escort is an easier car to work on than tha old one as it makes its way around the six miles of trim lines.

K.G.

Robots—or "universal transfer devices"—play an important part in the assembly of the new Escort at Ford's Halewood plant

Output of CVH engines builds up at Bridgend

BICYCLES HAVE turned out to be the quickest way nf gatting around inside Ford's new engine plant at Bridgend South Wales. A massive development by any standard, the covered floor space alone extends to 27 acras, sufficient ground to accommodate 20 Rugby pitches. Surveying the qniefly bumming banks of sophisticated machinery, and equipment stretching into the distance, it is difficult to grasp that only threa years ago there was nothing to see on the site but green meadows and grazing cattle.

Yet today, with the paintwork barely dry, Ford's £230m Welsh plant (£180m capital assets, £50m workiog capital) is already in business. So far it has produced 1,000 test enginea whicb have been subjected to exhaustive trials, including 320,000 miles of clandestine test driviog by the plant's own amployees—and 30,000 saleable units for this mooth's launch. It is now building np smoothly towards the target output of 513,000 units a year of the new lightweight compound valve head (CVH) engines—of 1,100, 1,300 and 1,600 cc — whicb are destined to power Ford'a new model range in more than 120 countries.

The major disappointment is that the plant may never provide the 2,500 jobs promised when the project was first announced—a figure which was the basis for a massive puhlic cash injection. Noless than £148m of tbe total cost was put up by the Government—£73m in regional development grant and £75m in selective financial assistance under Section seven of the Industry Act.

Damper struts

But tbe manning projection was made before Ford discovered that Japan bas an engine plant of similar capacity with a workforce of only some 800. Bridgend is certainly among the most efficient motor manufacturing plants in Europe, but by Japonese standards it still has some way to go.

The company insists the employment total at Bridgend will ultimately be decided by sales of the new Escort range; bnt equally it bas already identified areas in the plant where further automation could ba applied. Meanwhile there seems little danger of Ford being asked for a refund by the Government. Its defence is that the selective financial assistance was based on £10,000 per job created or protected, not just at Bridgend but also at Halewood, Belfast and Swansea.

The signs are, too, that the spin-off benefit for the local economy is not as great as might bave been boped for, simply becausa Bridgend is totally plugged into the Ford infrastructure. The rough-cast engine blocks are brought in by rail from Dagenbam and tbe cylinder heads from six separate sources, most of them on the Continent. The completed engioes are theo sent by rail twice a day to Halewood and Saarlouis in West Germany. One recent circulation suggested a further 700 jobs may be the sum total of tbe additional employment generated by Ford's Bridgend preseoce—not a large incremeot compared with many other industries.

For Wales, Ford's Bridgend plant represented the inveatment catch of the 1970s. It was won agalnst exceptiooally stiff Europeao competition—thanks, ameng other incentives, to the then recently established Welsh Development Agency. The WDA was able to move quickly to assemble a site large enougb (in all it stretcbes to 189 acres) io the right place from the standpoint of road and rail communications (clese to the M4 and a mainline rail link) and with an infrastructure to enable Ford to make an immediate start on construction.

Time is money and Ford was in a burry. The first bulldozers actually maved on to the site on the morning of November 15, 1977, little more than two months after the site was selected. The first Ford employees arrived for work in October, 1978, and were initially heused in portable cabins. In some instances machinery was being installed and commissioned before the rpof was on. The first saleable engine emerged from the plant on May 19 last—tha target date announced publicly by Sir Terry Beckett, the Ford's chairman, more than two years previously. Even by the company's own exacting standards this was "some going," as one Ford executive put it.

Ford hegan the operation by first putting together an international management team steeped in the company's ways of doing things and with direct experience of their allotted tasks at other Ford plants. Mr. Hugo Hof, the plant manager, is a West German who formerly headed the company'a Spanish plant in Valencia. His deputy, Mr. Roy Godier, is English and beld a similar post at the Dagenham engine plant. Another German, a Spaniard, three Irisbmen, and a Welshman were also included in the initial launch team.

But apart from some engineering supervisors' jobs which were filled mainly from other parts of Ford UK, the company determined to make Bridgend a truly Welsb plant by recruiting the rest of the workforce locally. Indeed Fard is very sensitive to suggestions that it bas brought in a lot of outsiders. Of the 1,500 personnel oow working at Bridgeod (scheduled to rise to 1,800 by Christmas) it insists that no more than 100 have been breught io. Men recruited locally as production workers, without any previous experience of the motor industry, have already been promoted to supervisery joba.

Training

But this commitment towarda enauring Bridgend is a genuine Welsh plant involved a massive training operation, beyood the professional resources of the company alone. Recruitment inte Ford's own apprentice school at its Swansea axle and transmission plant was doubled. But it also sought the backing of tbe Government's retraining "skill centres" and Ebbw Vale College of Education to upgrade skills of locally recruited craftsmen and provide training in hydraulics, pneumatics and electronics. More receotly, Bridgend College of Technology has begun running courses for supervisors at the plant.

Mr. David Murpby, the industrial relations manager, is fulsome in his praise for the tremendous support given not only by tbese institutions but also by the Manpower Service Commission's job centres in processing what turned out to be over 24,000 applications for employment at the new plant.

In an area with more than its fair share of older and declining industries, the prospect of long-term job security offered by Ford was a major attractioo. Indeed the management staff bave been staggered at the number of their employees who at some stage in their working lives bave been declared redundant.

Once on tha payroll, some 200 of the workforce also spent four weeks at Valencia learning modern engine production tecbniques and even working for a time on the assembly line. Maintenance engineers were sent all over Europe and to the U.S. to work with the suppliers of the plant's machinery and equipment to master its intricacies. Over 300 itms of machinery, some of them very advanced technically, have been istalled, accounting for around £100m of the overall caat.

But apart from the training effort Ford bas subseqneotly worked consciously to involve employees in the success of the venture. A lot of time bas been spent on briefing, to explain exactly what is happeoing, and on consultations about changes, production workers have been given the opportunity to assemble ao engine by hand so that they can see for themselves their particular contribution to the finisbed product.

Even more significant, the plant has adopted Japanese-style "quality circles"—regular meetings of groups of employees in particular sections to discuss how specific problems can be overcome and quality improved. The theory is that a man wbo speods eight hours a day doing a particular job is better placed to spot possible improvements that so-called experts. And the local management bas been delighted at the extent to which Bridgend's quality circles have already come up with very coostructive improvements wbich often require little money to implement.

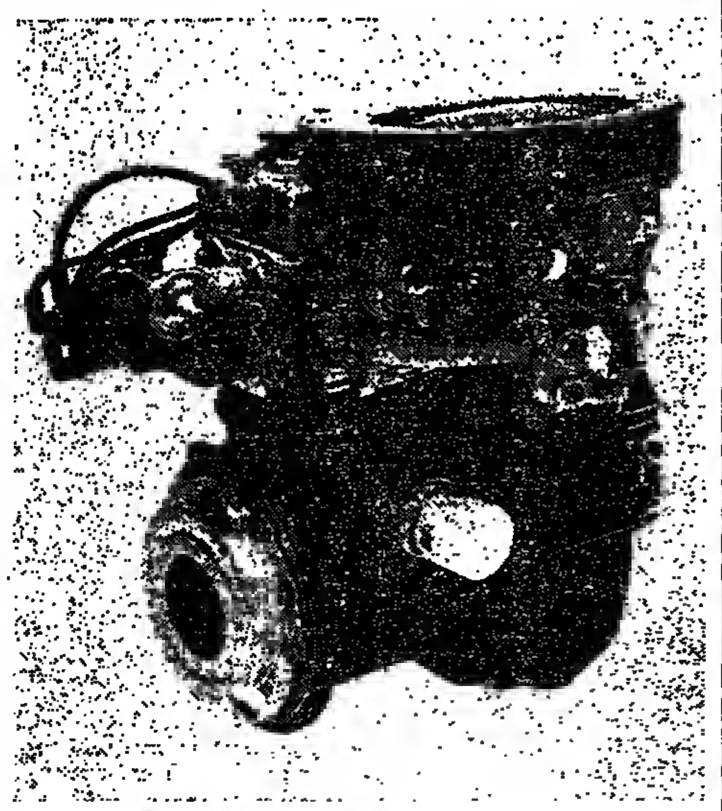
But the dividends are not limited to quality alone. Quality circles also provide an educatioo in engineering, contribute towards a sense of tesm spirit and understanding in the plant and have a beneficial effect on industrial relations generally. Workers feel they are heiog treated as intelligent human beings and resct accordingly. The participation rate at Bridend—and quality circles have beeo established right across the plant—is around 80 per cent.

In short, Ford is very pleased at the way its ambitious Bridgend project has got off the ground. At no stage has it run into major difficulties and tremendous effort an enthusiasm are being shown by the workforce, who travel from all over South Wales to work at the plant. But senior managers stress that fioal judgment must be held back until the plant is runing at full volume.

Wales too has every reason to he delighted. During a time of severe economic difficulties, arsng notably from the rundown of the ndustry, the successful execution of the project and the way the workforce bas adapted so quickly to the demands of a modern industrial plant have confirmed that Wales is entitled to a place in the first division when it comes to winniog international manufacturing investment.

Robin Reeves

Enthusiasm for the new design



Exceptional reliability is one of the features aimed at by the new engine's designers

COMPOUND valve-angles are not new—nor are bemispberical combustion cbambers. They are nevertheless faatures that Ford has chosen to single out for emphasis in naming their new Escort engine tbe CVH.

It would be wrong to suppose that they were scraping any of their techno1ogy or publicity barrels, for the engine is packed with features that are new to Ford, or new to this class of cars, or at least admirably up-to-date; and in view of the intended production of more thao 1m of these eogines a year, Ford and its customers may share a justifiable enthusiasm for wbat appears to be a fine piece of design.

Apart from one or two questionable trivia, there is only one cause for disappointment: Ford has described as hemispherical a combustion chamber that is patently nothing of the sort. If it were, it would need a very different engine underneath it to exploit the many theoretical advantages of such a cbamber. As it is, the engine has been developed around a combustion shape that is part-spherical, rather like a plano-convex lens, and all the evidence suggests that by taking great pains to avoid undesirable corruptions of this shape (by valve pockets, for instance) Ford have contrived to make the engine burn its fuel cleanly, completely, and with altogether respectable efficiency.

The geometrical complexities of the valve gear (necessary to avoid those pockets, and to avert fatigue or misbebaviour through over-stressing of the mechaoism) need not undergo analysis here. Twin overhead camshafts would bave done the job just as well, and nobody impressed by Italian or Japanese practice is obliged to accept Ford's declaration that such an arrangement would have been too expensive and too complicated.

As it came abont, Ford had to do a lot of work on their valve springs, pressed steel rockers and camshaft support, and even modify their original valve accelerations, to make their system work; but they bave done it, and it does bave its own advantages. One of these is zero-lash hydraulic tappets, which not only eliminate the cbore of periodically adjusting clearances but also eliminate a tronblesome source of noise.

These fluid cushions were once tbe preserve of large and lazy engines, typically American V8s (and Rolls-Royces, which are nn' dissimilar), but Opel bave made them work in their recent small Kadett eogioe, and if Ford have likewise succeeded they must bave been sure at least of a very good lubrication system in their engine.

Cornering

They bave made sure of many things. The sump and oil pick-up have been designed to deal with the surge caused by violent cornering, which could cause all the oil to rush to one end of the transversely-mounted engine. The location of auxilaries has also been planned around this type of installation (though that does not prevant the engine being differently disposed in later cars if Ford so cbose), including the toothed-belt timing drive; this belt is one of many features intended to bestow exceptional reliability on the CVH engine.

The reduction of maintenance bas been given the utmost priority, and really everything abort of complete encapsulation bas been contrived to save the owner those losses of time and money which so insidiously increase the cost of motoring. The same applies to tbe electronic ignition system, whicb might be taken fur granted in a modern engine were it not that a miserable old-fashioned Kettering distributor system survives in tha low-compression 1100 cc version.

This is one of five variants being made. Two are of 1600 cc displacement, one of these having different timing and carburation to give it the 96 bbp performance that sbould electrify the sporting XR3 version of the Escort. A 1300 cc version giving 69 bhp (10 less than the milder of the 1600s) will probably emerge as the staple all-rounder, but for the mean nf spirit or niggardly of purse there are a conple of 1100s, one giving 59 bbp and the other a lack-lustre 55 from low-grade fuel. The low compression ratio of this most pusillanimous of the CVH range allows it to operate on the 88 octane filth which masquerades as petrol in some parts of the world (the others all burn 96 octane stuff), and is not to be criticised when one remembers that the new Escort is conceived as a world car.

Tbis is why the annual churn-out of 1m CVH engines will occupy a factory at Dearborn in the U.S. as well as the new one at Bridgend in South Wales. It is wby the strain analysis programme, whereby the engine noise was balved withont reliance on sheer weight of iron to dampen distortion and vibration in the cylinder block, could be conducted at the Leenwen University in Belgium. It is not wby the aluminium-alloy cylinder beads are made for Ford at six different plants dotted around Europe; that is because the component gave Ford a lot of trouble.

The American iron-founders are probably the best in the best in the world. When it comes to casting aluminium, they are not so clever, and a good deal of expertise was needed if the light-alloy CVH head was to be anything but a production headache. The experts, especially in die-casting aluminium and its alloys, are the Italians; in fact it was Fiat who solved Ford's problems for them.

The rest of the engine can be made well enough by Ford; from wbat is known of the automation at Bridgend, and from the good bebaviour of the many prototypes and early production examples already on the road, "well enough" may be uosuitably faint praise.

L. J. K. Setright

FORD'S WORLD CAR VIII

German market share needs boost

Ford's Saarlouis plant is the third largest industrial undertaking in the Saarland region, employing over 8,000 people

FORD IS sorely in need of a boost in the West German car market to help revive its sagging market share, and the success of the new Escort is of vital importance if the company is to remain a significant force in Western Europe's largest market place.

The launch of the Escort has been long overdue, for Ford has seen its presence in this segment of the car market almost disappear with the old Escort holding on to only 2 per cent of new registrations in this category in the first six months.

Ford's problems have been compounded in West Germany because this is the area of the market that has shown the strongest resistance to the general sharp fall in demand for new cars over the last 12 months. Total new car registrations fell by 11 per cent in the first seven months of 1980 compared with the corresponding period last year, but during this time the share of the market taken by models with which the new Escort will be competing increased substantially from 26.7 per cent in the first six months of 1979 to 31.3 per cent in the first half of 1980.

Ford faces a tough fight, too, to establish itself again in this market, which is dominated by two other very successful German cars, Volkswagen's Golf and the Opel Kadett. The competition also includes a wide variety of imported cars ranging from Fiat's Ritmo, the Renault 14 and the Talbot Horizon to a clutch of Japanese rivals such as the Datsun Sunny, the Honda Accord and Prelude, the Mitsubishi Colt and the Toyota Corolla.

Sudden shift

Without an attractive model in this class Ford has been badly placed to cope with the sudden shift in demand from the larger cars of 2 litres capacity and above to smaller, more economical models.

As a result Ford's overall share of an already shrinking car market dropped in the first six months of 1980 to 10.7 per cent compared with 12.4 per cent in the corresponding period last year. The figures hide the fact that the fall has come chiefly in the sale of Ford's larger models, particularly the Granada and the Capri, which had previously been among its best profit-earners.

Sales of the Granada, for instance, fell by more than 50 per cent in the first six months this year compared with the same period of 1979, while sales of the Capri were down by 41.2 per cent. While the total car market in the Federal Republic shrank by 12.4 per cent in the first six months, Ford's total registrations in West Germany were down by 24.6 per cent.

The decline in demand has had direct consequences for Ford's work force. Last month the company announced that it was planning to cut its labour force in Germany by 6,000 through a programme of early retirement and voluntary redundancies. Extensive programmes of short-time working at its Cologne factories that the company had been implementing since last October were not sufficient to cope with the big fall in demand.

A total of 5,800 jobs are being cut from the 28,000 at Ford's Cologne-Niehl plant—the sole manufacturing location for Granadas and Capris for the whole European market—and a further 200 jobs are being lost at Ford's components plant at Düren, between Cologne and Aachen. The total redundancy programme is expected to cost Ford up to DM 135m (£31.4m) with production workers being offered a termination payment of DM 8,000-DM 12,000 (£1,860-£2,790).

Until the Escort could be launched the one bright spot in Ford's performance had been the Fiesta, its smallest model, which is the top seller in its range with a market share in the first six months in this category of 26.9 per cent. Sales of the Fiesta have been limited partly by the lack of sufficient production capacity, however, because Ford is in the process of moving the assembly lines north from its plants at Saarlouis in south-western Germany to Cologne.

Imports

Space at Saarlouis is at a premium because this is the site of the production lines for the new Escort, and in addition Ford is hoping to mitigate the loss of work-places in Cologne by transferring the Fiesta assembly work to the city.

The bottleneck in Fiesta production caused by the move has been eased by the rapid buildup of imports of Fiestas from Ford's Spanish plants. About 24,730 Spanish Fiestas were imported in the first seven months of the year against only 16,070 in the same period of 1979, but total Fiesta sales have still fallen in Germany slightly to 60,920 compared with 61,540 in the first seven months of 1979.

With the Fiesta Ford tasted its first success with the concept of a "world car," and the company clearly needs a similar breakthrough with the Escort if it is to re-capture lost ground.

The launch of the new Escort inevitably has led in recent weeks to a slackening of activity in car showrooms throughout Germany, as potential buyers in this class wait to size up Ford's new arrival against the competition. "Every model launch inevitably makes the market uneasy," said one leading Opel dealer, "and we always get a quiet period of three to four weeks."

According to another Opel dealer: "The chances are not bad for the new Escort—it has been well-planned for this market. But the sector is already well-filled by Opel, VW, Fiat and the Japanese, and Ford could have problems because it's a bit late."

A major Volkswagen dealer in Frankfurt says the recent calm in the market stems from different factors. "People are not holding back because of the new Ford, but because interest rates are too high. The biggest danger is the Japanese. Customers are ready to buy cheaper cars and they like the Japanese ones. Our cars must become cheaper, then the Japanese would have no chance."

Opel has been very aware of the new competition at the lower end of the market and its lack of a new model and as a result is to start selling the old Chevette model—imported from the UK where it is still made by Vauxhall—from next month at a price where it will clearly undercut the new Escort and Opel's own Kadett range.

As far as prices go the new Ford Escort will be pitched in the market between DM 11,295 for the cheapest model, the three-door 1100 Escort, up to DM 16,890 for the top of the range Escort XR3. This span of prices which covers more than 40 different varieties of Escort—taking into account the permutations of varying bodywork, engines and equipment extras—is very close to the price span of Golf and Kadett models offered by Volkswagen and Opel. Golf prices range from DM 10,955 for the cheapest model to DM 17,035 for the Golf GTE, while Opel Kadett prices also span the range of DM 11,000 to DM 17,000.

Though a little late, Ford *is* certainly now entering the one market segment which has shown signs of being ripe for further expansion at least in terms of its share of the total West German car market if not in absolute terms. Opel, for instance, which launched its new Kadett about a year ago, has been unable to keep up with demand and dealers are facing a backlog of orders covering three to four months.

Opel's problems in fully meeting demand have stemmed *chiefly from a temporary shortage* of components capacity at its works in Kaiserslautern. Engines and axles have been in particularly short supply and an important part of its current DM 6bn, four-year investment programme is aimed at boosting components production to bring it in line with the available capacity on the assembly lines.

Building on the successful launch of the Kadett last year, Opel sold an estimated 262,608 Kadetts in the first eight months of the year, an increase of 46.7 per cent on the corresponding period last year. Kadett sales are now accounting for about 47 per cent of Opel's total production and are challenging the VW Golf for leadership in this market sector.

VW also has other important models in this class, however, the Jetta and Sirocco—not to mention the old VW "Beetle" which still claims some 1.4 per cent of this category ahead of modern models such as Volvo's 343 and the Alfasud—which gave it a total share among the smaller medium-sized models in West Germany of 44.4 per cent in the first six months of the year. Opel took 24 per cent with its Kadett and the next challenger was a long way back in the shape of Fiat with 5.4 per cent and Honda with its Accord and Prelude models with 4.0 per cent.

The challenge posed by the Japanese is perhaps at its most serious in this category at present, with models available from not only Honda, but also Mazda, Mitsubishi, Toyota and *Datsun. The fierceness* of the Japanese challenge has taken the German motor industry by surprise, and Japanese manufacturers are expected to be taking more than 10 per cent of the total market by the end of the year.

Poised

With 9.5 per cent of new car registrations in the first seven months of 1980 in the Federal Republic they are already poised to take over as the leading importer, a role traditionally filled by the French, who could take only 9.7 per cent of the new car market in the first seven months.

Ford has not been alone in the problems it has faced in the past 12 months. Opel is also in the process of shedding about 5,900 jobs from its West German workforce and has suffered overall a drop in market share. While VW *is also introducing short*-time working to its Audi plants this month.

However, the absence of a strong competitor in the Escort class has meant that Ford has been particularly disadvantaged. It can only hope now that German car buyers' earlier well-proven loyalty to domestic products has not been too undermined by the Japanese competition and that it can regain something of the traditional market share that it has lost in the past two years. The Escort *is probably the only chance* it has got.

Kevin Done

Production rising at updated Saarlouis factory

THE SMALL town of Saarlouis — near the so-called "dreilaendereck" or point where West Germany, France and Luxembourg meet — with its easy access to all-mainland European markets, is an integral part of Ford's campaign to launch the Escort replacement. For at its works in this small West German state the company will concentrate German production of the new model.

The 10-year-old plant at Saarlouis, with 8,400 workers and *covering* more than 320,000 square metres will devote itself almost exclusively to making the new Escort in future (manufacture of some spare parts and components will continue). The assembly lines for the Fiesta, Ford's other small car, have been moved to Cologne.

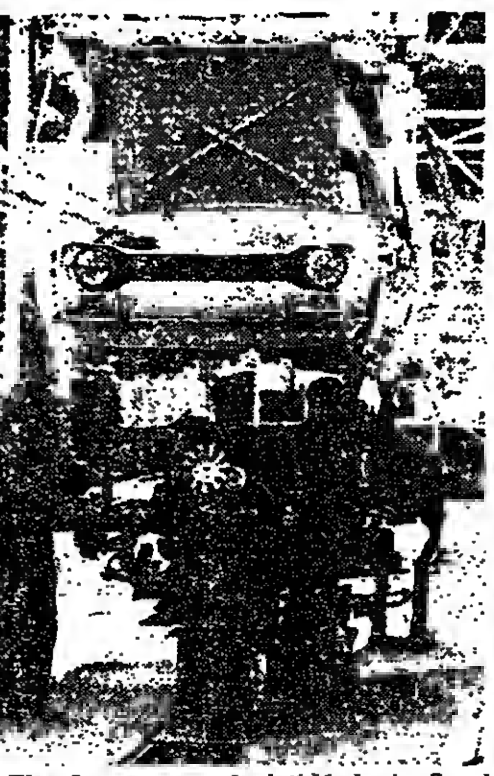
Production of the new car is already getting into high gear. Daily output in August was about 870, rising to 1,000 by the launch date. The final target of 1,140 cars a day should be reached sometime in November. This means that Saarlouis will then contribute more than 22 per cent to the total annual European and American production of the new model.

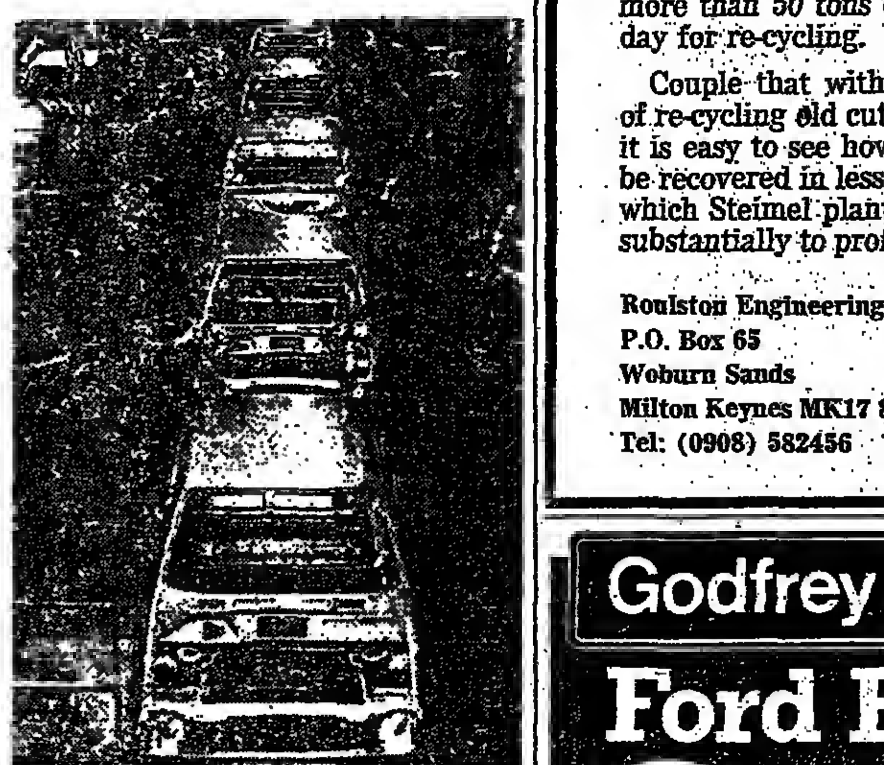
To achieve this goal Ford has invested more than DM 65m (£15.2m) in new manufacturing techniques at the Saarlouis works over the past 18 months. Forty newly developed microprocessor-run welding robots and 120 electronic control systems have been installed in collaboration with about 50 companies. A new electronic command centre — the size of a *big city telephone exchange* — not only directs all the robots but also monitors their controls. This equipment, Ford of Cologne says, is the most modern used *in any of their plants.*

Systems

The company hastens to add that this automation will not result in loss of jobs. Workers, mechanics and engineers have either been shifted to other productions sectors or trained to programme and service the new systems. Training actually began a full year before the start of the Escort's production.

Ford has been at Sarlouis since 1965 when it decided on the site instead of on others in the Alsace, in Coblentz or in Bochum which were also under discussion. The City of Saarlouis had made Ford's choice easier by investing in the area's infrastructure to the tune of DM 10m and by freely providing the company with development land worth nearly DM 15m.





The first car marked "Made in Saarlouis" rolled off the production lines in January, 1970 (left); now the factory aims to produce 1,140 cars a day (right)

But a number of problems had to be overcome. The economic recession in the spring of 1967 slowed down the progress of the plant, construction of which had begun a year earlier. Nonetheless, the number of workers quickly rose from a mere 85 that year to just under 6,000 in 1970 when the first car came off the production line.

By the beginning of this year Ford Saarlouis had become the third biggest industrial enterprise in the Saarland with more than 8,000 people employed. Total investment had reached DM 1bn. Although this amounts to only about 3 per cent of the province's total capital investment between 1966 and 1979. It is equivalent—in its direct and indirect value—to the contribution to GNP of two of the regional mines.

Since the birth of the plant a total of 2m of the old Escort, Capri and Fiesta models have been produced. Parked behind each other, the company says in its anniversary brochure, the cars would stretch from the gate of the plant to New Delhi. The number of vehicles assembled *per day had risen to 1,140 at the beginning of this year* (a figure once more aimed at as soon as all changes necessary to produce the new Escort have been made) against 200 in 1970.

On the other hand, labour costs have also gone up. Against only DM 84bn in 1970, as much as DM 405bn had to be spent by this year. Trade tax payments have also soared to about DM 26bn annually against only DM 3m at the start. Today Ford contributes roughly three quarters to the total trade tax revenues of the city of Saarlouis. This means that 30 per cent of the city's budget is currently being financed by one company alone.

Buying power

At the moment the company gives work to 10 per cent of the total local labour force. This is not counting the jobs that have developed thanks to the community's increased buying power and sales possibilities. Thus, to give an example, since the start of production at the Ford works, supplies of "non-production related materials" (from toothpaste to computer spare parts) nearly doubled and sales of "auxiliary instruments" (hammers, files and so on) rose from 16,357 then to 94,314 now.

But despite this dependence, the local authorities count their blessings and use "the fruit-bearing rain which fell on the city's financial garden," in the words of the town's Lord Mayor, to make Saarlouis steadily more attractive. A more pleasant town was striven for so that the money earned there would also be spent there.

Already a big housing complex costing DM 20m, which will one day house more than 8,000 people, is nearing completion. A park with rare birds and fishing was opened recently. Among other attractions several gymnasiums, an outdoor pool, a riding hall, a cultural centre and a new school were built. But most important the old city centre was turned into a pedestrian zone with many new restaurants, department stores and boutiques.

The *coming of Ford* more than a decade ago seems to have dispersed the clouds of unemployment and a mono-structured industry which hung not only over Saarlouis but over the whole region—at least for the time being.

In 1960 only about 1,000 people were employed in the Saarland's motor industry which produced a total turnover of roughly DM 12m. Now the volume of turnover has gone up to just under DM 3bn of the Saarland's total exports of DM 6bn in 1978 to the rest of the country and abroad, with Ford Saarlouis' share an estimated 20 per cent.

Elgin Schroeder

Pricing problems in the U.S. market

FORD'S Escort-Lynx is unusual in the U.S. for being more than a world car: it also straddles two size classifications which Americans understand as the "subcompact" and "compact." With a wheelbase of 94.2 inches and an overall length of around 164 inches, according to model, it is definitely a subcompact. But, says Ford — and no one seems to be challenging the assertion—in terms of interior size, the car is a compact.

This sales point, however, could turn ont negatively for Ford if the U.S. car-buyer's mind is, as many in Detroit argue, really focussed on the traditional classifications. More important, the bybrid nature of these product creates special problems when it comes to pricing.

Ford has already announced that it will sell its simplest, untrimmed Escort in the U.S. for $5,158, with the most sophisticated versions topping the $7,000 mark. These pricea make the basic Escort $1,000 cheaper than the General Motors X-body car (such as the Chevrolet Citation) and Chrysler's new K-car, whicb are both compacts.

But it will not make the Escort price competitive with the cheapest Japanese imports, or even with the Chevrolet Chevette, which starts at $4,672. In the two-door version, whicb is more closely comparable with the Escort, the Chevette is priced at $5,111 on the West Coast, where Japanese competition is most fierce.

Ford has ruled out a cut-price West Coast option. The Japanese, meanwhile, have not yet made all their pricing intentions clear, but it is certain that there will be some, possibly as many as ten, Japanese models available in October at between $4,000 and 4,500 each.

Ford's strategy of aggressive pricing, which is designed to reverse the decline in market-share (below 20 per cent in the first eight months of the year, compared with nearly 26 per cent in the same period last year—excluding imports) is therefore under challenge. And even at this level, the lower range of Ford's priecs is not thought by industry analysts to allow for any profit margin. That is how tough the U.S. car market is these days.

Working in Ford's favour is the fact that GM in ahort of components for the Chevette, the top-selling U.S.-built car in 1980, and cannot extend production. It will be six months before GM's new aub-compact, the J car, is unveiled, giving Ford valuable breathing apace. Ford also bopes that the Japanese will he deterred from too aggressive a pricing strategy by the threat of political repercussions in the U.S. if they further extend their market share. At present, Japan accounts for three-quarters of the cars imported into the U.S.

Outdated

Chrysler, meanwhile, hardly presents a challenge. Its aubcompact Horizon and Omni models, which look rather like the Volkswagen Rabbit (or Golf) have been moderately successful in the last year. But they are outdated and must expect to suffer seriously from the Escort-Lynx competition.

The K-car, in spite of Chrysler's vaunted claim that it has become the U.S.'s first specialist small car builder, is not a small car—at least not to European eyes. It is a compact, hut its styling and appearance are, even more so than the X bodies of GM, deaigned to appeal to Americans unwilllng to accept the day of the small car. It is a small, fuel-efficient (by American atandards) car, which looks big enough to carry the family and the golf-clubs.

There are two schools of thought about wbere American car-buying tastes are heading and that too is important for Ford. The first, whicb is more appealing to Ford, is that the market will continne to demand more and more subcompact cars, and that even if the imports continue to sell heavily (they now have nearly 30 per cent of the market), there is room for Ford's new subcompact.

The other argument was volced a few days ago by Mr. Dale Dawkins, a vice-president of American Motors, the small U.S. motor-manufacturer whicb makes the Jeep and sells imported Renaults in the U.S. He pointed out that in the last year 65 per cent of all the cars sold in the U.S. were small (that is compact or smaller), whereas the existing fleet is balanced in the opposite direction, comprising 65 per cent large cars and 35 per cent small.

Mr. Dawkins' conclusion is that there are a lot of frustrated Americans driving around, waiting for a chance, as the ecooomy recovers, to buy a nice new large car, albeit with much hetter fuel performance than the trade-in. If that bappens, Ford, wbose entire energies are going into pusbing the Escort-Lynx, could be scriously embarrassed, even though the company does have some restyled, moderately fuel-efficient larger cars from previously poorly-timed product ranges.

An outcome which would please everyone, of course, would be a straightforward boom in tbe car market. This view has some adberents, although with interest rates again rising in the U.S. and the underlying rate of inflation unchecked, it is to say the least a highly optimistic interpretation of events.

The other big competitive factor governing the success or otherwise of the Escort-Lynx will be fuel economy. Altbough the car ia by far Ford's best offering to date in the U.S. in this respect, it waa still far from making the top ten table of the most fuel-thrifty cars published recently for the New Model Year by the U.S. Government.

Encouraged

The survey showed the VW Rabbit diesel way ahead at 42 miles per American gallon, followed by eigbt Japanese cars, some of tbem captive imports of the U.S. companies. The bottom car in the top ten, the Mazda GLC, at 35 mpg, is a full 5 mpg better than the Escort.

But in other respects, Ford has reason to be encouraged. The Chevette was a sell-out despite the fact that it too manages only 30 mpg in the Government list. And there is no doubt that the U.S. companies, with their strong dealer networks, powerful advertising and perhaps, a toucb of patriotic sentiment in their market, ought to be able to do mucb better this model year than they did in the last one.

If tbey do not, the future for both Chrysler and Ford is very bleak indeed.

Ian Hargreaves

PROFILE:

Philip Caldwell

WHEN Henry Ford II stepped down last spring as chairman of Ford, clearing the way for his personal nominee, Philip Caldwell, to take the reins, the reaction in Detroit was rather like that in Hollywood at the passing of some great but scandal-ridden actor.

"All the great cbaracters are gone," was the standard reaction—with the addendum: "Except for Lee Iacocca at Chrysler, and look what kind of a job he bas got."

The sense that an era was ending and the style cbanging at Ford was enhanced of course, by the memory that Mr. Ford had bimself sacked Mr. Iacocca from the Ford Presidency in 1978—a fate which bas also befallen aeveral other Ford Presidents in the last decade.

But whatever Mr. Caldwell's personality, tbere can be no doubt that Mr. Ford, wbo was seen by some to be the last of the great entrepreneurs, selected Mr. Caldwell very carefully indeed.

No one could claim that Mr. Caldwell can matcb either Mr. Ford or Mr. Iacocco for straight gift-of-the-gab. But it can be argued that the same seat-of-the-pants marketing flair displayed by Ford's former leaders pnt Ford and Chrysler where they are today in the U.S.: losing massive amounts of money because they failed to see the writing on the international wall about energy prices.

Mr. Caldwell's appointment, and the appolntment under him of Mr. Harold Poling to run the troubled North American motor business, are conscious attempts to harness Ford's unsurpassed experience and achievement in worldwide manufacturing to the problems of the home turf.

Competent

Botb Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Poling ran Ford of Europe and, by all accounts, did an extremely competent joh there. The tendency to emphasise Ford's European connection—even in some of the sales-talk surrounding the U.S. launch of the world car — shows no signs of abating. For the moment European body-styling and European fuel economy are tops in the U.S. motor scene.

Mr. Caldwell, however, is not a European. He was born in Ohio in 1920, attended Harvard Business School, had an outstanding career in the navy and joined Ford in 1953. Since then he bas done a complete round of Ford jobs, in finance, products and marketing, all around the world.

Although much has been made of his lack of charisma, he comes across in fact as a tough-talking individual, not all that far removed from the Henry Ford mould. Broad-shouldared and a sharp dresser with a taste for pale-hlue silk bandkerchifs and 18th-century antiques, he is also a man who is clearly aware of what public images are about. In his home town be bas continued the Ford tradition of philanthropy in the arts by emerging as a noted patron of tbe Detroit Symphony Orebestra.

His weakness, as a public figure, is Ford's weakness. In terms of public pollcy, he has felt himself obliged to renege upon the company's long-held commitment to free trade by unequivocally demanding Government protection against Japanese car imports. He also had the added embarrassment of having to fire a senior economist whose views refused to change with the times.

Disadvantage

Caldwell's revisionism on free trade sets him a particular disadvantage in such bodies as the U.S. business round table, an exclusive and extremely influential gronp of the country's top chief executives, which collectively cherishes the free trading principle in its broader campaign to reduce Government interference in business.

Mr. Caldwell'a hiring and firing ability, and bence his capacity to pick and retain the right men for the right jobs at the top, cannot be judged at this early stage of bis chairmansbip. But it is an important factor in a company which, unlike General Motors, bas never in the past been afraid to admit a wrong choice. Mr. Caldwell bas, however, shown resolve in tackling the uncomfortable prohlem of thinning out the white-collar ranks in response to Ford's straitened fortunes.

In terms of the bright and aggressive image of the U.S. car companies, Ford's earnings have not exactly belped this year. The company, along with the other U.S. motor manufacturers, has been forced to admit that it cannot compete, at the moment, on price or quality with Japan.

If the Escort-Lynx is a success and if Ford's fortunes recover as they should, it would be a mistake to count Mr. Caldwell out as a major statesman of U.S. business. This is especially true now that Mr. Thomas Murpby ia about to retire from the General Motors chairmanship, giving way to Mr. Roger Smith, a straight financial executive without either Mr. Caldwell's strength of manner or his wide experience in non-financial sectors.

Caldwell may he, for the moment, trying to add a touch of European cool to the company's formerly brassy U.S. image. But one suspects that he can shout with the best if the need arises.

Ian Hargreaves

FORD'S WORLD CAR X

Japanese market still tough

FORD DOES not expect to overwhelm the bastion-like Japanese car market with its new world car, but the company's Japanese "connections" have raised a few eyebrows in the motor industry over the past few months.

Its equity share in Toyo Kogyo, the maker of Mazdas, appears to be leading to more genuine business links. And the prospect of a joint assembly project in the U.S. with Toyota Motor, though still distant, could add a new dimension to the international motor industry.

Under present circumstances, Ford's chances of making a dent in the Japanese market, along with the chances of all other foreign car makers, are very slim. The new Escort models arrive for modification in Ford's Yokohama plant in mid-October. Sales next year will probably run between 700-1,000 cars, or about one-sixth the number of cars it traditionally sells per year in Japan and 0.001 per cent of all the Erika models which will be produced next year worldwide.

Ford is the second largest-selling foreign car-maker in Japan, following Volkswagen, which leads the pack with its diesel engined Golf model. But the share that the foreigners hold in Japan is a bare 2 per cent (expected to fall below that this year).

Many of the traditional barriers to car imports have been lifted (such as import tariffs) over the past two or three years. The fact remains, however, that the virtual exclusion of foreign cars throughout the high growth years in Japan left foreign companies with inadequate sales networks, and very little enthusiasm.

Japan was a marginal market, and the big U.S. companies were content selling a limited number of cars mostly on the strength of snob appeal. Steering-wheels on the wrong side are considered a selling point, and the price tags (normally two to three times the cost of what is available from Toyota or Nissan) ensured most Japanese would never think about buying one.

The new generation of smaller, fuel-efficient U.S. cars should in theory improve the prospects for sales. Simply because cars like the Escort are becoming more comparable to the local product. Ford, however, has only 19 dealerships in Japan. The final price of the Escort in Japan will depend heavily on exchange rate fluctuations, but the normal mark-ups and the added expense of modifying imports to meet Japanese regulation will most likely keep the price more than twice as high as in U.S.

"Our strategy is to sell a small, fuel-efficient 1.6 litre car with the idea that it has all the U.S. luxuries," says a Ford marketing manager.

Control

Most Japanese analysts believe that a foreign car will not be truly successful in Japan, however, unless a huge investment is made to adapt the cars to Japan and establish large sales and servicing networks. Foreigners have shown little interest in spending the amount of money needed. It is arguable that the absolute control over the market held by the domestic industry would make such an effort at this time futile.

Ford's chances for selling cars in Japan in any volume are not very good, but this has not kept the company from becoming intimately involved in Japan. Ford acquired a 25 per cent share in Toyo Kogyo earlier thia year, ending years of false alarms that it was about to do so. The Ford-Toyo Kogyo talks in fact date back about a decade, to less happy days for the Hiroshima-based company.

Sumitomo Bank, the main bank which brought Toyo Kogyo back from the brink of failure after the 1973 oil crisis, had approached Ford toward the end of the 1960s with a proposal to acquire shares. At the time, Sumitomo was not at all sure that Toyo Kogyo would survive, having little confidence in the son of the company's founder, who took over after his father died. Ford, also unhappy about the management of the company, declined the offer.

The son, Mr. Kohei Matsuda, is now retired, and Toyo Kogyo is back on its feet. It supplies Ford with small trucks and the transaxles used in the new front-wheel drive Escort cars. More importantly, it appears that Toyo Kogyo will help Ford in its worldwide strategy for a world car by providing cars—either in built-up or kit form—to Ford for sale (or assembly) elsewhere in Asia.

The car is expected to be a modified version of a car which Toyo Kogyo introduced earlier this year in the Japanese market, the Familia, which will be marketed through Toyo Kogyo's own network in the U.S. and Europe.

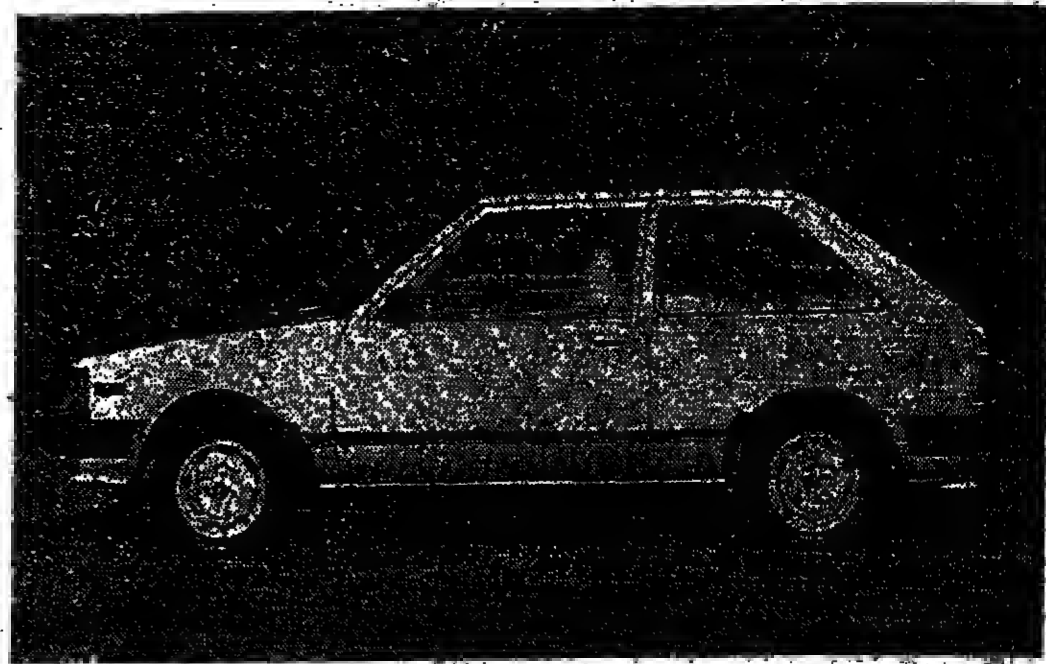
Toyo Koygo, however, is not prepared at this time to jeopardise its own market in Japan, even to a 25 per cent shareholder. It remains to be seen whether the two companies will ever be able to co-operate further in Japan,

In the U.S., the two are about to agree on Toyo Kogyo's providing about 150,000 2,000 cc diesel engines a year, for an autumn, 1983, Ford small car model.

The likelihood that Toyo Kogyo will supply its own diesel engines to a new Ford car raises the question of how Ford and Toyota will progress on the Toyota proposal jointly to produce cars for the U.S. market.

The proposal touched a rather sensitive nerve at Sumitomo Bank and Toyo Kogyo. It is assumed that Sumitomo will use its influence to make sure that any such venture does not hurt Toyo Kogyo. There is speculation that any such Ford-Toyota venture will include Toyo Kogyo.

Richard Hanson



The Mazda 323 three-door Hatchback—the car on which the Ford Laser will be based. The Laser, which has only a passing similarity to other cars in the Erika range, is aimed at the Australian Market

FORD'S POSITION AMONG THE MAJOR MOTOR GROUPS—1979

	Country of ownership	Passenger cars/	Commercial vehicles	Turnover	Net profit
General Motors	U.S.	5,092,183	1,352,469	$66.3bn	$2.9bn
Ford	U.S.	2,043,014	1,032,117	$43.5bn	$1.2bn
Toyota	Japan	2,111,302	884,923	Y3,310bn	Y341.8bn
Nissan	Japan	1,738,946	598,875	Y3,304bn	Y186.7bn
Peugeot SA*	France	1,433,775	159,268	FFr 72.8bn	FFr 1.1bn
Renault	France	1,403,949	141,046	FFr 48.5bn	FFr 1.016bn
Volkswagen	W. Germany	1,213,913	92,450	DM30.7bn	DM667m

* Includes Peugeot, Citroen and Talbot.

Australia: a chance to consolidate

FORD AUSTRALIA has chosen the name Laser for its version of the new front-wheel-drive Escort. The Laser will be released in Australia in February or early March.

The company has already flown Australian distributors and dealers to Singapore to preview the new car. Naturally enough, it says they were impressed.

This, of course, is expected from a manufacturer which has a substantial share of the Australian market — some 20 per cent — and which in recent times has been puzzled about small cars.

Ford Australia is a subsidiary of Ford Canada, which in turn is a subsidiary of Ford U.S. and Ford has always seemed ambivalent about small cars in Australia.

Perhaps the "smallness" of such cars has not sat too happily with American notions of motoring. Certainly, the Ford Escort has never commanded a substantial market share in Australia, sales running out in the first six months of this year to 4,664 vehicles, or 8.6 per cent of the small car market.

This is a market share which Ford has held with reasonable consistency in Australia with its Escorts. In 1977, 9,913 (10.6 per cent of the small car market) of these cars were sold; in 1978, 10,189 (10.9 per cent); and in 1979, 10,381 (10.8 per cent) found buyers.

But these figures have been well behind Japanese makes of comparable size. The more popular of these, notably Toyota's Corolla, Nissan's Datson 120Y and Toyo Kogyo's Mazda 323 have virtually sold at twice this rate and in the first six months of this year it has been possible to believe that the ageing Escort was dying on its feet.

Worse, General Motors-Holden, the Australian subsidiary of General Motors of the U.S., has always seemed ona step ahead of Ford on the Australian market. Holden's Gemini, a product of Japan's Isuzu, has been sold in Australia at the rate of 20,000 a year and more for some time. Ford's Escort has never really been an answer to it.

Ford has smarted because of this. Traditionally, it has produced in Australia a range of larger cars which has proved as competitive as anything Holden has turned out and at moments Ford has come close to bettering Holden in this sector of the market.

Where Ford, and also its rival for the Australian market, Holden, has scored in the recent period, however, is in the watering down of Australian content requirements in the manufacture of motor vehicles.

Once, this requirement stood high, around the 90 per cent level. This meant that vehicle manufacturers in Australia could not afford the luxury of a wide model range but had to concentrate basically on one model to achieve production of a reasonable and economic scale. But the local content requirement was watered down and Holden seized the opportunity to import the components from Japan to assemble 20,000 of its Geminis a year. Because the local content of Australian vehicle manufacturers is averaged across all models produced or the model mix, this worked in Holden's favour.

Ford, however, found its Escort no answer. This car did not really compete in the Australian market, although in fairness there was never anything terribly wrong with it. The problem was that the Escort had been overtaken by similar Japanese cars; in Australia, models which were often cheaper, models which often had better resale values.

In the last year or so, however, it has become apparent that Ford has been taking its market position in Australia very seriously.

Similarity

In November 1979, Ford, U.S., acquired 25 per cent of the shares of the Japanese manufacturer, Toyo Kogyo, the maker of Mazda light commercial vehicles.

The move raised Australian eyebrows: Mazda vehicles had always been distributed in Australia by other companies, and in particular on the populous Australian East Coast by a privately-owned one.

Now Ford Australia admits that its Laser, which has only a passing similarity with the new Ford Escort/Erika cars, will be almost totally a Toyo Kogyo product.

This is a strong hint that Ford Australia ultimately will be taking over the distribution of Mazda vehicles in Australia and is moving to do so when the contracts presently held by the independents come up for renegotiation.

Ford says its Australian Laser will have little similarity with European or American models. For one, its engine and transmission will be made by Toyo Kogyo in Japan and will be different from European and American units. For another, the Laser will look different: Ford Australia says that the styling is sharper and more boxy than the Escort which has been released in Britain, although the silhouettes of the two cars are roughly similar.

Engines, apparently, will be different again. It seems that the Toyo Kogyo engine may follow established lines in Mazda cars by having a chain-driven overhead camshaft and inclined valves. Such an engine is already fitted to the new front-wheel-drive Mazda 323.

Ford Australia's projection for its new Laser is sanguine. Up to now its Escorts have been made at its Homebush, Sydney, plant at the rate of 45 a day. This plant is being developed, Ford says, to produce 100 cars a day.

The increase suggests that Ford Australia is looking to annual sales of its new Laser of about 20,000 a year, not a dramatic figure on the Australian market. Nevertheless, in the tightly-controlled market which exists in Australia where the Government sees it as providing jobs first and cars second, Ford's Laser move makes commercial sense.

These cars will be built under the complex vehicle manufacturing rules which are peculiar to Australia, and will be built shrewdly by Ford to gain every advantage it can. After all, Holden, its competitor, has shown the way.

It would be reckless to prejudice the Laser on the slim information that is available. There seems little doubt, however, that it will be a satisfactory small car, although perhaps not the world car it has become fashionable to talk about.

Ford, large as it is, has not been able to force its will on all markets with its new line of front-wheel-drive small cars. Yet the concept is there and as a first try on a world scale the effort is impressive. Perhaps the next try will see a greater uniformity in styling and mechanical components.

Peter Burden

CHILE AFTER THE PLEBISCITE

The paradox facing General Pinochet

HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY *reports that the Chilean economy seems in better shape than for some years. But the recent referendum has brought opponents of General Pinochet's regime closer together, and the political tide may now be turning in their direction*

[illegible]ING is on its way in Chile, [illegible] the ugly and usually drab [illegible] of Santiago is looking [illegible]er and more prosperous [illegible] it has for decades.

[illegible] a plain woman using [illegible] art of the cosmetician, [illegible] capital is putting its best [illegible] forward. Public buildings [illegible] been freshly painted, and [illegible] lit at nights; the grimy [illegible] of the city centre have [illegible] laid out as pedestrian pre[illegible] set with flowers and [illegible]tains; two metro lines are [illegible] being extended to the [illegible] distant suburbs, and they [illegible] a fast, clean and effi[illegible] service. The shops are [illegible] than they ever have been [illegible] imported goods—whisky, [illegible] chocolates, Japanese electronic gadgets, in fact most things that money can buy.

Interest rates are coming down and production is going up under General Augusto Pinochet's seven-year-old Government, which earlier this month was confirmed in power hy a two to one vote in a plebiscite. In the first seven months of the year, car output was up 45 per cent on the total for the similar period last year. Imports of consumer goods are running at more than double last year's rate, bnt imports of capital goods are well up too, bearing witness to the private sector's growing desire to invest in new productive capacity.

Some shares are doing very well, industrials up 110 per cent on average this year, overtaken only hy shares in farm sector businesses, np 153 per cent. Official consumer prires bave risen only 32.7 per cent in the past 12 months, a mere nothing in a country once well-used to triple digit inflation. Property prices bave shown enormous growth.

The price of copper, the main export from this country of 10m people, is not high, but it could be a lot lower.

The proportion of total exports made up hy copper has shown a tendency to decline in the last five years, and now stands just helow 48 per cent.

Everything seems to bear out the lavish praise that the World Bank, in its study on Chile published earlier this year, heaped on General Pinochet's Government.

Things appear to be going just the way business wants. In the plebiscite, the Chilean voters opted for a continuation of military rule well into the 1990s. The latest edition of Estrategia, a Chilean business weekly, proclaims on its froot page: "Political stability assures the sustained growth of the economy." Mr. Ceril Parkinson, the British Trade Minister, who went to Chile in August, was one of a number of similar visitors from Western Governments seeking closer relations with a growing economy.

It is therefore paradoxical that, when all seems to he going well for the Government, its opponents feel the tide could be turning in their direction for the first time since 1973, when General Pinochet seized power from the civilian Government of Dr. Salvador Allende. The turning point, many Government opponents say, came wben General Pinochet last month announced the staging of the plehiscite. The surprise announcement acted as a catalyst to bring together—or at least to bring more closely in touch with one another—the various opposition groups which in the previous seven years had individnally been voicing what protest they could at General Pinochet's policies.

Party political opposition to the règime has heen very much of a shambles since 1973. The general's first fiat was to dissolve "Marxist" parties and forbid the centrist Christian Democratic Party and tbe Right-wing National Party to operate. That did not mean, of course, that they kept quiet, hut they did have great difficulty in expressing themselves. The Socialist, Communist aod other Left-wing supporters of the Allende Popular Unity Government went into exile, where their continual squahbling made them almost completely inconsequential for the Chileans who stayed in Chile.

After the coup, former President Eduardo Frei, leader of the Christian Democrats, gave an implicit welcome to Pinorhet, thus making relations with the Socialists and Communists even worse than they had heen.

It was left to the Catholic Church, under the strong leadership of Cardinal Raul Silva, Archhisbop of Santiago, to protest against the règime's many excesses and stand up for the working people wbo hore the hrnnt of the hunger and mass unemployment after the 1973 coup. Later, the Christian Democrats moved towards opposition to Pinochet hut for a long time they still appeared to he at least as opposed to Allende supporters as tbey were to the dictatorship.

The annouorement of the plebiscite changed that. Late last mooth, Sr. Frei came out with a strong rall for an eod to tbe dictatorship and tbe immediate formatioo of a civilian-military government which would lead the country towards democracy. His call to voters to cast their ballots against the règime in the plebiscite was echoed hy many Left-wingers.

At the same time, the Church, in a solemn statement of all the Bishops, rast serious doubt on the fairness of the plebiscite. As inrreasing evidence comes to light of the fraudulent nature of much of the polling this month, many Christian Democrats and many left-wingers are urging their leaders to cease their ideological wrangling and work together for the overthrow of the dictatorship.

Meanwhile, economic criticism of the Fr[illegible]nanite doctrines of General Pinochet has heen growing, distinguished economists like Sr. Alejandro Foxley arguing cogently that there is widespread hunger, unemployment and improverishment hebind the smart facades.

Sr. Foxley, director of Cieplan, the country's most respected think tank, closely associated with the Christian Democratic movement, says: "We are holdly told that wages and salaries have not only fully recovered from the recession of past years hut in fact are higher than they were. Recent economic studies show, however, that last year they were ahout 20 per rent lower than they were 10 years ago."

Monsignor Juan De Castro, editor of one of the leading Church publications, says: "The social cost of the present development model is ohvious over the past seven years. Take unemployment, for example. In the working class suburb of Lo Hermida it is more than 50 per cent. Two years ago, in the suburb of Puente Alto, a survey showed that 92 per cent of the heads of households were out of work. In such circumstances, the unemployed live on the charity of their neighbours or on some relation in the countryside."

Arcording to official statistics, unemployment, which was 12.5 per cent last year, had dropped to 11.7 per cent by June this year.

The arguments of Sr. Foxley and Mgr. de Castro are fuelling controversy in the Government. On the one hand, there are those who want to continue witb the present policies. On the other, there are powerful voices who argue that General Pinochet's rule cannot but suffer if the standard of living of large parts of the population fall and wealth continues to be concentrated, as it has been for the past seven years, in the hands of those at the top of the social scale. This group wants a more populist, naitonalistir dictatorship whirh would he a lot tougher on foreign investors.

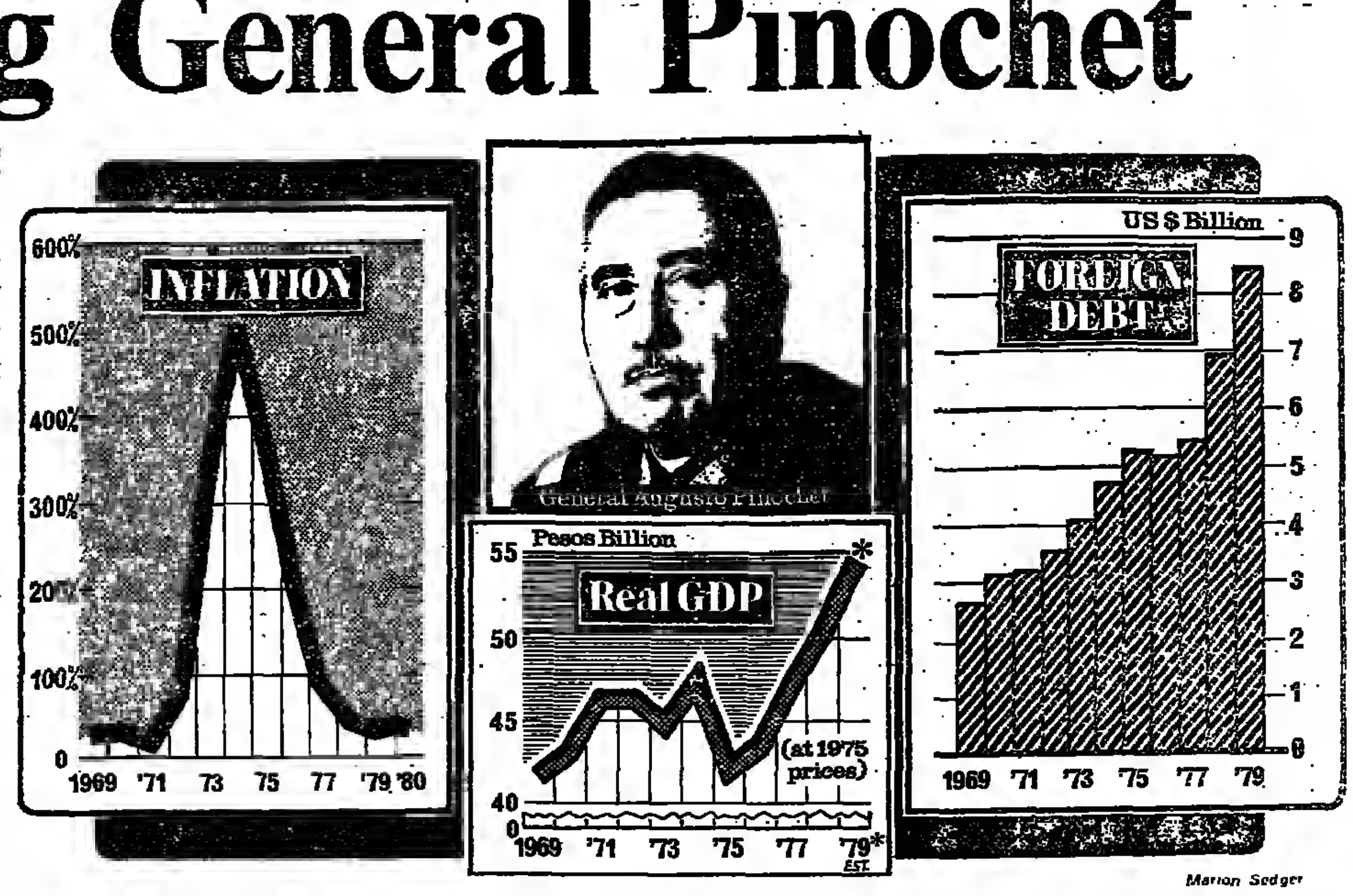
While opposition appears to be coalescing outside the regime, inside there are rontinuing reports of military unhappiness with General Pinochet. Some say that while the overwhelming majority of naval officers are pro-Pinochet, the army is about equally divided into supporters and opponents, while the air force is on the whole anti-Pinochet. Generals have been heard to say: "We don't like Augusto trying to turn himself into Caesar Augustus."

Geoeral Gustavo Leigh, Pinochet's former comrade in the ruling junta, expelled for insubordination, is a constant critic of Government policies and is well placed to take advantage of any false step by Pinochet, particularly over Chile's border dispute with Argentina over the Beagle channel of Tierra Del Fuego.

Much will depend on the determination of General Pinochet's opponents. Sr. Frei is certainly the man of the moment as far as the opposition is concerned. As a politician who won the Presidency with a landslide victory in 1964, he is a man with a large following in Chile. But he has often found difficulty in taking decisions.

General Pinochet, for his part, has proved himself a cunning and forreful politician who has outfaced his opponents and who could prove more than a match for the Christian Demorratir leader. The principal danger to him must lie in the emergence of some new political — or indeed military — leader who would weld the increasingly united opposition into an effective weapon against the dictatorship.

Whether that leader emerges or not it seems likely that the Chilean President will have to have recourse to all his politiral gifts to maintain the sort of society that he wants Chile to he.



Marion Sedger

Letters to the Editor

Runaway money supply

From Miss Clare Macdonald

Sir,—I am rather surprised at Mr. W. Grey's attempt (September 23) to deny the banks' prior creation of the credit they lend, since the banks themselves openly admit it. I would refer him to any of the recognised banking examination textbooks, such as J. L. Hanson, which state clearly: "Every hank loan creates a deposit, thereby adding to the total of all hank deposits." This induhitably constitutes monetary issue hy the banks. Further corrohoration of the banking system's credit creation out of nothing by book entry can be found in the evidence of the Bank of England to the Radcliffe Committee in 1960 and similar absolutely authoritative sources in America, Canada and New Zealand.

I fail to see the logic of Mr. Grey's contention that if the Bank of England has been making a hash of it no other body is likely to do any better—one might as well ask, could it do worse?

I am not concerned about being "original" in my suggestions hut am quite content to advocate that, in fsct of the repeated dismal failures of all the so-called orthodox remedies for inflation which hsve heen tried over and over again, and in our present crisis of mass ununemployment, we should open our minds and take a long look at the fundamentally similar proposals for monetary reform which bave been put forward by snch men as Bishop Berkeley, the first Lord Melchett (Alfred Mond), Professor Soddy, Christopher Hollis, MP, Dr. McNair Wilson and many others. These men were not fools and they all held that it was the responsibility of government (not private banks) to issue the nation's money supply deht free and in such quantities as to maintain stable prices. Under the present system the Government issues no money at all; it merely taxes us or borrows money from the public (savings) or from hanks (new credit creations) on which interest must be paid by the taxpayers.

Clare Macdonald.
70, Courtland Ave., Cranbrook. Ilford, Essex.

Unit-linked policies

From Mr. M. Iqbal

Sir,—Mr. Lynch's trenchant letter (September 13) in response to Eric Short's article (August 30) cslls for comment.

As he rightly points out the timing of premium payment is of crucial importance. If the general trend in the unit price is upwards, the hest result is obtained if esch premium is paid at a *contemporary low* point in the unit price. There is no a priori evidence that this could be hetter achieved by regular monthly payments instead of regular annual ones.

The assertion that it is better to have performance that is poor for 23 years and spectacular for the last two than steady throughout is based upon the assumption that the overall growth over the period is predetermined, the only unknown being the path taken to achieve it. That is an academic exercise of no practical valne. If the investment management is lacklustre for 23 years, it is likely to remain so for the last two.

My main criticism is of his final suggestion that the provision of pension hy means of a unit-linked cootract is unwise because the ultimate benefit is too volatile. I agree that the value of the unit-linked funds is volatile compared to the equivaleot with-profits fund. However, if the objective is the provision of pension, what is important is the pension secured hy the fund.

In the case of a unit-linked contract, if the onit price is "high" giving an above average fund size, this would usually be associated with "low" interest rates, leading to lower annuity rates. Conversely, if the nnit price is "low" it would be associated with higher annuity rates. Consequently, the level of pension is far less volatile than the size of the fund.

In the case of a with-profits contract, tbe size of the fund does not vary in the same way and the ultimate pension is therefore dependent upon the annuity rates then current. This pension is more volatile than the pension provided by a unit-linked contract. This is particularly true if at the time the unit-linked policyholder was invested in a fixed interest fund.

M. Iqbal,
26, Bramble Drive, Bristol.

Vehicle registration

From Mr. R. S. Anderson.

Sir,—When I read Mr. Wright's correspondence (September 17) I initially thought what a ludicrous suggestion and quickly dismissed the idea as one which should he consigned to the wastehin. However, as some ludicrous ideas have a tendency to be acted upon I thought tbat I should list some of the reasons for my contempt.

(a) Most insurance companies do not use the same computer hardware as Swansea so there would he the simple difficulty of Swansea's computer heing able to read and interpret tbe information. The extreme solution to this prohlem would be that insurance companies should all buy the same equipment irrespective of the size of the operation. In this even I wonder what the size of the "... small statutery sddition to the premium" would he?

(b) As there still exist insurance companies operating efficient manual systems, Swansea's computer would be unable to deal with their data consequently eliminating the respective motorists from prosecution.

(c) Insurance companies are currently weighted down by an already beavy hurden of legislation. In particular, legislstion for new reporting requirements to the Department of Trade have only recently been issued. These Regulations will require, without compensation, alterations to existing systems.

(d) General insurance companies transacting life business bave only recently recovered from legislation coveriog tax relief by deduction on life premiums. In other words these companies are now acting as agents, without recompense, for the Inland Revenne. To add Mr. Wright's proposal to this duty diverts effort from the commercial viewpoint of selling products at competitive prices.

(e) Why should Mr. Wright limit himself to insurance companies? Why not extend the idea to all the major hanks with all their computer records being read hy Inland Revenue computers? This idea would help solve tax evasion. However, I am sure that Mr. Wright would be amoogst the first to complain ahout this invasion of his privacy.

(f) Does Mr. Wright really helieve that the British motorist would absorb this extra cost without complaint? With insurance premium already very high due largely to inflation, any additional premlum would be strongly resisted.

(g) As Swansea already have great difficulty handling the existing system despite vast sums of money being spent on its development, can Mr. Wright be certain that it could handle bis proposal?

(b) How does Mr. Wright cater for those motorists who do not insure their policies? As one of his intentions is "... crime control ..." then these motorists would remain outside the law.

I am sure that there are other reasons which more educated people than myself can produce but I think that I bave listed sufficient to confirm my earlier reaction.

R. S. Anderson.
1, Parfour Drive, Kenley, Surrey.

Negative lending rate

From Mr. H. I. Meyer

Sir,—We are the climacteric. It is national suicide to maintain the highest international minimum lending rate at the same time as we have the highest possible exchange rate for the currency.

It does not take a financial genius (merely a Swiss hanker) to establish that when the exchange rate of a currency is too expensive for hoth its internal trade and its export potential and threatens to suck in foreign money by its very firmness, a *penalty* on foreign money, rather tban an exorbitant regard is what is required.

Because of the underlying inherent strength, both of the British economy and the British natural resources (oil, coal, people) the exchange rate of the currency on a worldwide hasis is bound to be high for the foreseeable future. It is therefore imperative that a negative minimum lending rate, as practised hy Switzerland in a similar situation, is the only means to dampen down the monetary excesses now heing experienced.

Therefore it is the duty of the Governor of the Bank of England to advise the Chancellor of the Exchequer that as of the earliest possible opportunity, the minimum lending rate is to be established at minus 2 per cent.

If this fall of 18 points in the cost of money does not regenerate the economy, the only alternative is destruction or war.

H. I. Meyer.
The Studio, 136b, Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware.

Price of communication

From the Director, Telecommunications Users' Association.

Sir,—the managing director of British Telecommunications claimed that it was hitting the target of achieving reductions in real costs by 5 per cent each year (Financial Times, September 16).

It is difficnlt to square this assertion with tariff performaoce. In January, 1980, telecommunications prices went up hy about 15 per cent. A further increase of some 20 per cent has been applied for to take effect from November, 1980. Thus prires will bave increased by 38 of 5 per cent yearly will have actually increased at over double the rate of inflation. per cent in 1980, or over 45 per cent on an annualised rate, and Telecom prices, far from falling in line with costs in real terms

M. E. Corby,
Tress House, 3-7 Stamford Street, SE1.

Cost and efficiency

Sir,—Your article (September 24) entitled "Time to call in the efficiency experts" quite rightly drew attention to the benefits loral authorities can achieve from cost/efficiency assessments—particularly on a comparative basis. However, the article rather understates the degree of interest in this matter amongst local authorities. In fsct, the issue is at the forefront of current thinking and action amongst both councillors and executives, many of whose authorities bave already taken part in detailed performance comparisons orgsnised by ourselves and other hodies. The most recent of these related to public library systems, with 30 major local authorities participating in a pilot study which will be repeated regularly in the future on a larger scale. The aim of this and other studies which the Centre carries out is to enable local anthorities to hsve reliable, comparable yardsticks which take into account not only the cost/efficiency of the services they provide, but (eqnally important) the quality of these services, and other relevant factors responsible for comparative differences in performance.

L. Taylor Harrington.
Director, The Centre for Interfirm Comparison,
8, West Stockwell Street, Colchester.

Cuts in local services

From Councillor Bryan Cossidy.

Sir,—When I read your first report on Mondsy, September 22, of Mr. Nott's warning of the possihility of increased taxes if government expenditure is not hrought under cootrol, I thought you must bsve misreported him. Unfortunately, your issue of September 23 seemed to confirm the reports.

I bave a great respect for Joho Nott. He is very intelligent, sbrewd aod capable. I cannot believe, therefore, that he would consider seriously for a moment that increases in taxes, whether income tax or VAT, would solve the basic prohlem of the money supply. That basic prohlem as we all know is the failure of central and local government to trim their swollen hnreaucracies and to exercise proper fioancial controls.

This was well illustrated by a report on tbe same page of your September 23 issue about Cambridgeshire County Council planoing to axe 420 johs hy the end of the year. The list you gave referred to teachers, policemen, firemen and some admioistrative staff. It is the administrative staff who are most easily dispensed with in local government. Very few councils have yet grasped this nettle. The reason is quite simple. The people who put forward the recommendations for cuts are always the administrative staff. Obviously they will first seek to protect their own positioos.

The same phenomenon obviously exists at central government level. The civil servants in charge of various programmes will always cut the services to the public rather than the ranks of their own hureaucratic empires.

As a staunch Tory I would he horrified at the thought of increases in taxes before the nettle of the hureaucracy bas been properly cnt down.

Bryan Cassidy,
Member of the Greater Loodon Council for Hendon North,
Members' Lohby, The County Hall, SE1.

Real rate of interest

From Mr. Ian S. Muir

Sir,—The debate which rages round the Government's economic policy is being conducted hy politicisns of hoth parties (and hy the media) on a level increasingly remote from the real world. Just as the weather forecaster should occasionally raise his head from his satellite photographs and look out the window, so the economist should apply rommon sense in the applicstion of even the soundest theories.

The Government is quite rightly anxious to keep the money supply and hank lending under control, and claims that high interest rates are necessary to achieve this. However, the statistics reveal a stubborn growth in Sterling M3 and hank lending "in spite of" penal rates of interest.

Might I suggest that the growth in these statistics is actually caused by high interest rates. Sterling M3 is a very inexact and incomplete definition of money supply and much of its apparent growth has been caused by the transfer of resources not included in the definition (hnt nevertheless real and already in existence) into hank deposits hearing attrartive rstes of interest. Equally, much of the apparent growth in hank lending is due to the capitalisation by the hanks of large sums of unpaid overdraft interest.

A sharp reduction in interest rates would not cause the money supply to run riot in the present recessionary circumstaoces. On the contrary, by making hank deposits less attractive aod reducing the rate of arcrual of overdraft interest, the Government's desired ohjectives would become more capable of achievement. For your own sake as well as ours, Sir Geoffrey, lower Minimum Lending Rate now.

Ian S. Muir.
10, Linn Mill, South Queensferry.

The price of money

From Mr. J. N. Carpenter

Sir,—Can anyooe explain to me, why so many leaders of different sections of our society; clever, intelligent and successful, having a major influence on informed opinion, ronsider that the cost of money should he exempt from the process of inflation?

Nigel Carpenter.
9, Northford Road, Dartmouth, Devon.

GENERAL

UK: Mr. James Callagban, Opposition leader, addresses rally at CWS Century Hall, Manchester.

Mr. Cbristopber Tugendhat, EEC Budget Commissioner, presents analysis of UK trade within the Common Market sinre 1973.

Mr. G. N. Cobb, First Secretary (Commercial) Jeddah, addresses Birmingham Chamber of Commerce seminar on trade prospects in Saudi Arahia.

Devon International Festival opens, Exeter (to Ortober 11).

Two-day Autumn Arms Fsir (Europeao and Oriental militaria) opens, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London.

Today's Events

Overseas: Sir. Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, flies to Wasbington for International Monetary Fund meetings to be held next week.

Striking railmen return to work in West Berlin.

COMPANY MEETINGS

J. and J. Dyson, Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, 12. Garford-Lilley, Great Northern Hotel, King's Cross, N., 11.30. Samuel Heath, Cobden Works, Leopold Street, Birmingham, 10. Hillards, The Post House Hotel, Queens Drive, Ossett, 12.30. Marling, Charing Cross Hotel, WC, 12. Property Security Investment Trust, Founders Hall, 13 St. Swithin's Lane, EC, 12.30. Scottish and Mercantile Investments, Winchester House, London Wall, EC, 12. Wm. Sommerville, Dalmore Mills, Milton Bridge, Penicoik, Midlothian, 2.30. Sound Diffusion, Datum Works, Davigdor Road, Hove, Sussex, 3.30. Standard Industries, 2 Wadsworth Road, Perry Vale, Greenford, Middx., 11. Joseph Webb, Station Hotel, Dudley, 12.

COMPANY RESULTS

Final dividends: S. Casket Holdings. Interim dividends: Hall Engineering (Holdings). James Neill Holdings. Owen Owen.

Vickers first half boost from BAC compensation

EXCLUDING Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings, the results of Vickers for the first half of 1980 show pre-tax profits of £12.62m against £6.39m, but include this time £8.17m, relating to prior years, being interest receivable on the final compensation for the group's holding in British Aircraft Corporation.

Pre-tax profits of Rolls-Royce Motors fell from £4.58m to £1.24m in the 24 weeks to June 14, but both R-R and Vickers are forecasting increased profits for the current year.

The Vickers board expects trading profits for the year, relating to those groups which were the Vickers activities, to exceed those for last year and in view of the compensation receipt, the forecast of a total dividend on increased capital of 12p (9.81p) is confirmed. The interim dividend is lifted from 3.85p to 4.55p.

Rolls-Royce Motors, the figures of which will be consolidated from August 6 this year, is expecting profits in excess of last year's £7.15m.

This is due to an improvement in North American trading conditions since the half year, coupled with the introduction of the new motor car later this year and compensation expected from the cancellation of the Iranian tank engine contract.

Meanwhile sales of Vickers in the first half improved from £184.49m to £210.62m with trading profits of £11.66m against £12.6m—trading profits last year totalled £19.66m and pre-tax profits were £6.87m.

First half tax charge is £2.61m against £2.2m. Stated earnings per share before extraordinary items based on stock in issue at June 30, prior to the increase to effect the merger, are 21.6p compared with 9p at the same time last year.

The directors say that with the exception of the office equipment group, all principal activities achieved higher trading profits despite increasing competition. Vickers Australia has also returned to profitability.

The sale of the international machine division was completed on June 27 and the estimated trading loss prior to the date of sale has been included in the first half results.

The reduction in Rolls-Royce profits was caused by the difficult trading conditions in the North American motor industry and the continued depression in the diesel engine business, the directors say. Group sales amounted to £80.68m compared with £76.22m.

Interest payable in the 24 weeks amounts to £3.44m against £1.83m. There is a tax credit of £115,000 (£1.27m charge) leaving net profits at £1.36m compared with £3.33m.

HIGHLIGHTS

Lex exmaines the four major company stories of the day. Vickers' profits are well up, helped by interest received on compensation payments, while the contribution from Rolls-Royce is down to £1.2m. George Wimpey's profits are up from £8.4m to £9.4m, while Dunlop's profits are down from £18m to £15m: but after tax of £17m the half year produces an attributable loss of £2m. Finally Lex looks at the figures from Tootal, where interim profits are down from £6.4m to £2m though the dividend is held steady. On the inside pages Brixton Estate has popped up with a £15m cash call from shareholders, and insurance broking company Alexander Howden closes the books on six-month figures, showing a modest rise in profits to £11.1m. Interim profits at Hanger Investments have suffered a sharp setback and the dividend is passed. Haden's profits are up by £½m and supermarket group Wm. Morrison has produced slightly higher profits. At APV a slightly lower contribution from UK companies took the edge off a better performance overseas and the profits are marginally down. Meantime Spear and Jackson's half-time showing is better than expected, and profits from HTV come out at £3.6m (£4.1m).

£15m cash call by Brixton Estates

BY ANDREW TAYLOR

BRIXTON ESTATES has launched a £15m cash call on its shareholders with a one-for-four rights issue. At the same time the property group unveiled its interim figures which showed a 21 per cent rise in net rental income.

Mr. Harry Axton, group managing director and deputy chairman, said of Brixton's first ever rights issue: "Finance is available for all our current commitments, but if we are to involve ourselves in further major projects the capital base of the company needs to be increased."

The money is to be used initially however to reduce the group's short term borrowings in the UK. Brixton Estates shares fell 4p yesterday to 132p on news of the issue which has been underwritten by J. Henry Schroder Wagg.

Shareholders are being offered one new share at 115p for every four now held. Medical and General Life Assurance Society, which holds 23.7 per cent of the voting rights in Brixton said yesterday that it intends to vote in favour of the new issue at an extra-ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held on October 13.

Along with the rights issue announcement Brixton has revealed its intention to declare a total dividend for the year of 3.04p net—a 25 per cent increase after allowing for affects of the rights issue.

Meanwhile, rental income from the group's properties rose from £4.2m to £5.1m in the six months to the end of June, compared with the same period a year ago. After allowing for interest and operating expenses investment profits rose by 28 per cent to £1.6m.

Mr. Axton said that cash to fund a present development programme of around £27m was no problem as the group still had borrowing facilities of around £17m still to be taken up if required.

Dunlop slips into the red at the attributable level

WITH results throughout the group showing wide variations, and finance charges rising from £21m to £25m, taxable profits of Dunlop Holdings fell from £18m to £15m in the first half of 1980. Higher tax brought about a £2m loss at the attributable level, compared with a £1m profit for the corresponding period and a break-even position at the end of the last full year.

The directors report that the current economic situation is combining to prevent an early return to adequate profitability.

Nevertheless, successful cash management is sustaining the group in the short term and the wide geographic and product spread of its activities remains a continuing source of considerable strength.

First half sales totalled £702m, a fall of £71m due mainly to the exclusion of Dunlop SA and Pirelli, which are not now subsidiaries but associates. Eliminating the effect of this change the value of first half sales was 7 per cent higher. Sterling value of overseas sales was £409m, up 7 per cent, as were UK sales of £293m. UK exports increased by 19 per cent to £81m.

After depreciation of £18m (£21m), operating profits amounted to £33m compared with £32m, which included £2m from Dunlop SA and Pirelli.

The directors say first quarter results were well ahead of 1979, which was depressed by £3m due to the lorry drivers strike, but this improvement was not maintained through the second quarter due to the deepening recession.

During the six months, UK tyre operations achieved some improvement in productivity and introduced further cost improvement programmes. However, the loss incurred was higher than in the first half of 1979 but was at about the same level as the second half of that year.

The German tyre business, Continental European selling companies, sports and industrial groups all showed increased profits, as did the subsidiaries in the Far East and Africa.

In the UK, the engineering group was most affected by the steel strike and recorded lower profits. The consumer group in the UK and the U.S. company were badly affected by the recession.

The strength of sterling since mid-1979 has reduced the sterling equivalent of the overseas companies' profits by £1m. The strength of sterling has also cut deeply into operating margins on UK exports.

As for associates, improved results were again reported from Japan by Sumitomo Rubber Industries, but losses were incurred by Dunlop SA in France and International Synthetic Rubber Co.

Despite a fall in pre-tax profits, action taken on fixed and working capital expenditure has contained borrowings to well below planned levels.

Financing charges nevertheless increased, due mainly to higher interest rates.

Some shares in the wholly-owned subsidiary, Dunlop Zimbabwe are to be offered to the public. An agreement has been reached with an issuing house in Salisbury under which approximately 25 per cent of the shares will shortly be offered for sale.

The half year loss per 50p share is shown at 2p (0.6p earnings) and the interim dividend is held at 2.65p, costing £3.5m. Last year's total payment was 5.3p.

On a current cost basis, operating profits amounted to £3m (£1m) and the loss attributable totalled £16m (£9m).

Lex Back Page

Kwik-Fit gets £3.2m for Firestone depots sale

FAST expanding Kwik-Fit (Tyres and Exhausts) which last month bought Firestone Tire and Rubber's entire UK network of tyre and exhaust depots, announces that it has sold on to Dunlop, 81 of these depots for £3.2m cash.

This deal—which followed an approach by Dunlop—means that Kwik-Fit has recouped all the cash it laid out for the purchase of Firestone's 180 depots.

The company said yesterday that the depots being sold to Dunlop were considered by the management to be more suited to the wholesale distribution of tyres. Kwik-Fit is retaining 75 of the prime high street locations, which include a large number of custom-built depots. The company says these are particularly suited to the company's retail operations.

Kwik-Fit, which claims to be the largest independent operator of exhaust and tyre centres in Europe, will now be operating from 220 depots in the UK and Europe, and a further 12 are scheduled to open this year.

Mr. Alec Stenson, chairman, said yesterday that the company's aim was for 250 centres in the UK and it was planned to open more in Europe. But the company "would run slowly," he added.

Of the remaining 24 depots purchased from Firestone, the company is retaining 10 for development and is not renewing 14 short leases.

Mr. Stenson said that the Firestone depots would have no significant effect on the current year's profits but would start contributing in 1981. Cash from the sale to Dunlop would be used to refurbish the depots.

In one of the group's largest acquisitions, it acquired Euro Exhaust last year for £10m. In the year ended February 29 1980 Kwik-Fit lifted profits by 74 per cent from £1.15m to £2m. In the current year the company is aiming for turnover of some £25m compared with £16m in 1979/80.

Wimpey ahead £1m at halfway and expects satisfactory year

WITH BETTER weather and good progress being made on contracts in the UK and overseas, pre-tax profits of George Wimpey, construction engineer, are up £1m at £9.4m for the first six months of 1980.

Considering the depression in the UK and the pressure in overseas markets, says Mr. R. B. Smith, chairman, the directors are of the opinion that the results for the full year will be satisfactory.

But although the order book at the end of June was higher in real terms than at the same time last year, he repeats his view that 1981 could be the group's most difficult year.

In common with other companies, Wimpey had hoped for a more substantial reduction in interest rates by the middle of the year, he adds, and although present borrowings are below the December, 1979, level, the current rates not only reduce profits but deter investment by potential customers.

There is evidence, he says, of a marked reduction in deposits placed by intending purchasers since May, the full effects of which will not be felt until next year.

The interim dividend is lifted from 0.75p to 0.85p net—last year a total of 2.25p was paid from pre-tax profits of £47.3m (£57.2m).

First half turnover rose from £428m to £510m and the surplus was struck after interest charges £5m higher at £8.6m.

Tax took £2.4m (£2m) and there were minority losses of £0.3m (£0.1m profits). After an extraordinary credit this time of £0.8m arising from the sale of an investment, the attributable surplus emerges at £8.1m (£6.3m), of which the interim dividend absorbs £2.18m (£1.92m).

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

		Current payment	Date of payment	Corre-sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Aberdeen Constn.	int.	2.3	Nov. 28	2.1	—	5.45
Amal. Metal	int.	3	Nov. 6	3	—	14
APV Holdings	int.	2.8	Oct. 31	2.8	—	8.4
Barlow Holdings	int.	1	Nov. 13	1	—	3
Berkeley Hambro	int.	3	Dec. 4	2.5	—	5.5
Blue Bird Confectionery		2.9	Nov. 1	2.52	4.35	3.78
Brixton Estate	int.	1.46	Nov. 8	1.23*	—	2.43*
Brown and Jackson	int.	†4	Dec. 31	4	—	9
Clarke, Nickolls	int.	1.75	Nov. 24	1.5	—	3.5
Dunlop	int.	2.65	Jan. 2	2.65	—	5.3
Falcon Mines		§55	Dec. 5	60	—	110
Galliford Brindley		3.5	—	3	4.63	4.13
Gen. and Commercial	int.	4	Oct. 27	3.3	—	9.07‡
Genl. Investors	int.	2.2	—	2	—	5.5
Hanger Invest.	int.	Nil	—	1.25	—	3
Alexander Howden	int.	3.5	Nov. 17	3.5	—	7
Haden Carrier	int.	3.6	Nov. 24	3.25	—	10
HTV Group		6.5	Nov. 14	6.5	10	10
Hoskins and Horton	int.	Nil	—	3	—	8
Hunt and Moscrop		0.54	Nov. 28	0.54	0.9	0.9
Charles Hurst	int.	1.33	Jan. 14	2.66	—	5.96
Percy Lane	int.	1	Dec. 1	0.75	—	1.75
J. & J. Makin		2	—	2.52	3	3
Manor Natl	int.	nil	—	1	—	2.5
Modern Engineers	int.	1	Nov. 17	1	—	3
Wm. Morrison	int.	0.7p	Nov. 10	0.7	—	2.2
New Equipment	int.	0.35	Oct. 30	0.35	—	1.04
Office & Electronic	int.	2.5	Dec. 8	2.5	—	6.5
Sale Tilney	int.	3.5	Nov. 28	3.15	—	6.75
Singlo Hldgs.	int.	0.78	Nov. 24	0.52	—	0.52
Sizewell European		2.4	Nov. 7	2.1	2.4	2.1
Spear & Jackson	int.	3.58	Jan. 5	3.58	—	9.98
Third Mile Invest.	int.	0.7	—	0.53	—	1.29
Tootal	int.	1.1	Jan. 2	1.1	—	3.14
Vickers	int.	4.55†	Jan. 5	3.85	—	9.81
Wilkinson Warb'ton	int.	1.94	Nov. 7	1.94	—	6.29c
Geo. Wimpey	int.	0.85	Jan. 8	0.75	—	2.25

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.
* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Including special payment of 0.67p. § Zimbabwe cents throughout.

Tootal down £4.3m in first six months

PROFITS before tax of Tootal, the textile manufacturer, slumped from £6.42m to £2.03m in the six months to July 31, 1980, with the CCA figure revealing a pre-tax loss of £4.03m.

The directors say the group has experienced serious trading problems over the past six months and there are no grounds for assuming that conditions will markedly improve before the middle of 1981.

Nevertheless, the temporary impact of closures through the half-year coupled with the erosion of export margins by exchange rates, masks some creditable performances by several UK businesses which the group has been developing over recent years.

Equally, the higher interest rates hide the progress being made in the reduction of working capital and the consequential release of funds.

The interim dividend is being maintained at 1.1p—the total last year was 3.1415p when pre-tax profits were £14.64m (£21.1m).

After tax and minorities and an extraordinary debit of £1.37m, an attributable loss of £1.81m was incurred in the first half compared with profits of £3.52m in the same period last year. The debit represents the costs of all reorganisation and closures that have been announced. The first half figures also include trading losses of £1.8m incurred by units being closed or reorganised.

The directors say some difficult decisions have been made in the realignment of productive capacity in the UK. But the Board is confident that these moves are correct, and that the tighter operation will perform well in anything approaching normal conditions.

The sustained performance of operations overseas is most gratifying despite the fact that many countries are experiencing the problems of world trade recession.

Lex Back Page

HTV regains ground after strike

SUBSTANTIALLY recovering from the setback caused by the television strike last autumn, HTV Group has finished the year to July 31, 1980 with pre-tax profits of £3.58m against £4.09m after stepping up its second-half surplus from £1.56m to £2.34m. At midway, profits were down at £1.25m compared with £2.54m.

Earnings per 25p share are shown as 19.56p (22.65p) after tax of £1.56m (£1.76m) and the dividend is held at 10p net with a similar final of 6.5p.

Turnover of the group, which is involved in publishing and fine art dealing as well as television contracting, went ahead from £36.93m to £39.64m.

A divisional breakdown of profits shows that while television finished only slightly lower at £2.65m (£2.83m), the surplus from fine art fell from £704,930 to £475,850 and publishing and stationery slumped from profits of £234,878 to losses of £31,418.

Property and leasing profits rose to £530,503 (£368,567).

The pre-tax surplus is struck after charging the Exchequer levy of £2.14m (£3.05m) and interest of £46,875 (£44,097).

SSAP 15 has been adopted and the tax charge for the previous year adjusted.

A revaluation of freehold and certain leasehold properties at the year-end has produced a surplus over book values of £375,680, which, after a provision for deferred tax of £211,351, has been credited to non-distributable reserves.

A further surplus of £867,579 arises from the valuation of technical and office equipment and motor vehicles used in the television activity to take account of inflation and this, less a £451,141 provision for deferred tax, is also credited to non-distributable reserves.

Provision has been made against the profits this year for additional depreciation of £441,603 related to prior years.

● comment

The boost in second-half television profits at HTV, from £1.397m to £2.146m, reflects both the spillover from the autumn blackout and favourable comparison with the strikebound depression of the previous year. The diversified activities are clearly less buoyant, with fewer moneyspenders in the fine art market, where Frost and Reed proffers originals in the £500 to £50,000 bracket, and publishing suffers the marked recession felt by BPC among others to report recently. For the current year, while year-on-year growth in national advertising revenue is slowing, there should be headroom for a modest profits improvement, while in the longer term the franchise looks secure. At 113p, down 2p, the shares yield an historic 13 per cent on a fully-taxed p/e of 6.5.

C. Hurst falls to £203,800

TAXABLE REVENUE of Charles Hurst, the holding company whose activities include the sale, repair and maintenance of cars and commercial vehicles, plunged from £611,479 to £203,813 for the six months to June 30, 1980.

The interim dividend has been halved to 1.33p net—last year total dividends of 5.96p were paid from pre-tax profits of £526,982.

Group turnover this time fell from £32.91m to £29.75m. Tax took £58,029 (£317,969). Stated earnings per 25p share were lower at 2.5p, compared with 13.6p.

Mr. C. T. Hurst, chairman, has waived his right to the proposed interim dividend amounting to £7,275.

Hoskins & Horton makes a loss

Hoskins and Horton, whose activities include building and contracting and the manufacture of building supplies and hospital beds, has tumbled into the red in the first half of 1980.

The directors announce a taxable loss for the period to the end of June of £247,000, compared with a profit of £338,000. The deficit was struck after a provision for losses of associated companies amounting to £129,000, against £22,000. There was no tax charge (£51,000) and loss per share was stated as 13.9p (earnings 10.9p).

The interim dividend is omitted. Last time 3p net was paid followed by a final of 5p from taxable profits of £481,000.

The Board states that the loss is due to a severe reversal in the performance of Hoskins Ltd., the hospital bed-making subsidiary. The effects of the Government's spending economies in the National Health Service during 1980 have been much more damaging during what has traditionally been the company's busiest period.

The directors foresee no early improvement in demand for Hoskins' products. During the six months they decided to make substantial reductions in the scale of operations at the company and to retain sufficient production capacity to match the probable market demand assessed to the end of 1981.

Two factories were closed and put on the market and the number of employees in the company was halved.

A provision has been made in the half-year figures of £123,000 for the consequent redundancy and reorganisation costs.

The director say that the Horton companies maintained their profits well in the half year at an unfavourable time for the building industry—but the profits of these companies do not counterbalance the loss at Hoskins.

Demands on management and financial resources have caused the board to plan withdrawal from the associated company established in Kuwait with the Al Rashed family by agreement with its partners.

After completion in Kuwait of the large contract for hospital equipment in the latter months of this year, there will be a settlement of the terms of withdrawal.

The board is unable to forecast whether this settlement will require any further provision for loss and to what extent it can be expected to reduce the level of borrowing shown in the last balance sheet.

Percy Lane recovers to £405,000

WITH sales 19 per cent ahead, from £9m to £10.72m, pre-tax profits of Percy Lane Group made a substantial recovery in the first half of 1980, rising to £405,000 compared with £86,000. For the whole of last year profit totalled £161,000.

However, the directors warn that interest charges continue to be a heavy burden—they rose in the six months from £42,000 to £140,000—and that the industrial outlook has deteriorated further since June. They therefore do not expect the company to maintain the same level of output and profit during the second half.

They point out that 1979's first half figures were affected by the harsh winter weather, which delayed work on building sites, the transport strike, which damaged all UK activities, and the heavy starting up costs of the Home Improvements subsidiary.

This year's figures, they say, were caused some inconvenience by the steel strike but little financial penalty. This resulted in group trading profits recovering some of the lost ground. They rose to £545,000 (£128,000).

The interim dividend is being increased to 1p net (0.75p) after a bigger tax charge of £205,000, compared with £43,000. Net profit amounted to £200,000 (£43,000).

Percy Lane is a manufacturer of windows for the building industry, motor vehicles, caravans and railway coaches.

On August 1 it acquired an old-established French window maker, Besnard. This company is currently at break-even but a vigorous programme has begun to improve profits.

REPORTS TO MEETINGS

AGR work for Laurence Scott

Laurence Scott, the Norwich based electrical engineer which is currently the subject of a proposed bid from Mining Supplies, yesterday revealed news of what could be the group's largest ever contract, probably totalling in excess of £10m.

At yesterday's annual meeting Mr. Paul Tapscott, chairman, referred to negotiations for some "valuable, very long-term contracts" for equipment for the new advanced gas cooled reactor stations at Torness (Edinburgh) and Heysham (Lancashire).

Mr. Tapscott said negotiations for the supply of submerged gas circulator motors were nearing completion and Laurence Scott understands that, subject to the projects going ahead, this contract will be placed with the group. "The value of these and other associated AGR contracts would be the largest ever taken by the company," he added.

As regards current year trading the chairman said he would wait until shareholders received the formal offer documents from Mining Supplies before these details were given.

Shareholders were warned of "grave damage" being inflicted on Britain's manufacturing industry by the harshness of the Government's policies. In particular cash limits on nationalised industries and moratoria on defence spending were causing costly rescheduling of manufacturing plans.

At the annual meeting of MFI Furniture Group, Mr. Arthur Southon, chairman, warned that first-half results would be affected by high interest rates and the costs incurred by the integration of Status Discount, acquired earlier this year. The first quarter had been satisfactory and the chairman said that the traditional August sales period proved rather more successful than had been anticipated.

Mr. John Mackenzie, chairman of Scottish English and European Textiles, said management accounts for the first four months of the year indicated that the "trading position and cash resources remained satisfactory."

UK COMPANY NEWS

Wm. Morrison holds profit

TAXABLE profits of Wm. Morrison Supermarkets moved from £1.92m to £2.02m in the half-year to August 2, 1980, in line with the chairman's forecast at the AGM in May.

The directors say that the effects of the change in the anniversary of wage negotiations for the majority of staff hava been absorbed and they are cautiously confident about the results for the year as a whole.

The current increased level of sales is being maintained and there are, they say, indications of a reduction in the rate of inflation, particularly on imported foodstuffs.

Borrowings are *significantly* lower than at the year-end and any further reductions in interest rates will obviously be beneficial, they add.

The interim dividend is a same-again 0.7p net. Last time a final of 1.5p was paid from pre-tax profits of £4.6m.

Sales for the six months showed a rise from £61.6m to £78.8m and operating profit increased from £2.14m to £2.39m. Interest charges, bowever, rose to £369,000, compared with £214,000. Rents and interest receivable were marginally lower at £165,000, against £169,000.

On a CCA basis taxable profits are reduced to £1.73m, compared with £1.64m, with the operating profit down at £2.07m, against £1.8m.

The directors state that a *new* fresh food factory comes into production next Monday and substantial benefits are expected to accrue in the future.

● comment

Halfway figures marginally bettering expectations firmed William Morrison shares 7p to 170p, where the meagre historic yield is under 2 per cent—though giveo a fair second half, the hoard could well afford to boost the *final distribution*. The company's reckoning is that the 28 per cent sales increase comprises 12.5 per cent inflation, 8.5 per cent new space, and 7 per cent volume. With productivity offsetting the wage rise, the new factory depreciated in the first-half, and falling borrowings, forecasts of £5m to £5.5m for the year could well edga towards the top end of the range, where the prospective fully-taxed p/e is a demanding 15. The daylight between the share price and its 73p oet asset backing may owe something to bid considerations, bnt more than balf the shares are family-controlled.

Wilkinson Warburton setback—same interim

THE cautionary remarks made by the chairman of Wilkinson Warburton six months ago about the current year were more than justified with taxable profits of this distributor of textiles and carpets falling in the first balf of 1980 from £365,660 to £173,541. Sales were higher at £10.91m, compared with £9.64m.

High interest rates and static demand continue to create problems, the directors warn, and at present there is no sign of any improvement in business.

They say that it is almost certain that this disappointing trend will continue for the remainder of the year. Therefore, they are continuing witb their policy of rationalisation and cost reduction where possible.

However, the Board believes the results still merit paying a same-again interim divideod of 1.94p net—last year's total was 6.29p from taxable profits of £879,000.

Brooks Watson downturn

Profits before tax of the Dublin-based Brooks Watson Group fell sharply from IR£1.02m to IR£224,000 in the first six months of 1980 on turnover of IR£59.9m compared with IR£53.04m.

The current depressed situation in agriculture was reflected in a severe fall in sales and profitability of farm machinery during the period. Since the end of June, trading *conditions have* remained difficult and the board has reduced tbe interim dividend from 0.75p to 0.35p.

In 1979, the group paid a total dividend of 3p from pre-tax profits of £2.44m.

First half profits are after depreciation of £323,000 (£246,000) and interest of £1.06m (£543,000). Tax charge is £101,000 (£367,000) giving earnings per share of 0.82p against £3.77p.

The group trades as builders' merchants, food wholesaler and *distributor of farm* macbinery and pharmaceuticals.

A. Howden unchanged halfway

ALTHOUGH sterling has strengthened since the eod of last year, the aggregate results of Alexander Howden Group, insurance broker and underwriter, are largely unchanged in the first balf of 1980 with the UK and overseas *subsidiaries making similar* contributions.

Howaver, the increasing strength of sterling and continuing adverse factors in the international insurance market will inevitably affect the second half of the year, the directors say.

Pre-tax profits for the first *half* amounted to £11.13m against £11.09m and attributable profits were £6.15m compared with £6m. The interim is unchanged at 3.5p—the total last year was 7p from pre-tax profits of £20.12m.

In answer to questions at the Press conference Mr. Ian Posgste, a director, said that there was small loss on certain quota share reinsurances from Canada but it would result in no overall loss to the members on the affected underwriting syndicate. He added that war risk marine rates were rising sharply after the outbreak of hostilities between Iran and Iraq. For one *ship* in the Gulf the premium rates had climbed from 0.025 per cent to 3 per cent for a seven-day call.

● comment

In what has turned out to be a fairly nnpredictabla results season in the insurance broking sector, Alexander Howden has produced a tiny increase in pre-tax profits for its first-balf year. On this basis £19m to £20m pre-tax for the full year looks possible. *In the first-half*, investment income rose from £2.8m to £3.9m exclnding insurance companies whicb showed virtually static investment income of £1.5m. Otherwise trading performance was mixed. Australia showed a turnround into loss of £383,000 from a profit of £147,000, not helped by Harlock and Galli. In the U.S. the excess and *surplus lines* market is proving something of a headache where losses are being produced. Overall brokerage growth expressed in sterling showed a rise of 10.8 per cent while in local currency terms, the rise was 13.5 per cent. And the group's underwriting agency activities showed a small fall due to the impact of computer leasing losses. At 103p the shares yield a prospective 10 per cent assuming a maintained dividend and stand on a *prospective* fully taxed p/e of around 10.

Spear & Jackson lower so far: warns on future

CHIEFLY because of higher *interest rates*, up £102,000 at £396,000, taxable profits of Spear and Jackson International slipped in the half-year ended June 28, 1980, to £824,000, compared with £953,000.

The directors of the group, *which turned in* a pre-tax surplus of £1.97m (£1.83m) for the whole of 1979, say immediate prospects are unfavourable as recessionary conditions continue to deepen.

The interim dividend is held at 3.575p net—*last year's* final was 5.8p.

Trading conditions in the first balf varied, say the directors. The UK hand tools and French industrial tools companies performed satisfactorily, but the *UK industrial cutting tools side* was set back by the steel strike and its effect on customers in the engineering sector.

Demand at the U.S. and Canadian companies, which supply tools for the lumber industry, has continued to be severely depressed by the low level of housing starts in North America, although there are signs that the fall may have levelled off.

Turnover, which directors say was affected by the strength of *sterling*, went *ahead slightly* to £19.09m (£18.1m). Tax took £277,000 (£371,000) and minorities £31,000 (£15,000), and there were exchange losses of £93,000 (£74,000).

● comment

Spear and Jackson's figures are overall surprisingly good, especially as sterling conversion *wiped £300,000 off profits*. The problem area bas been North America. Sales there are ultimately dependent on the U.S. housebuilding market. U.S. housebuilding starts were running at 800,000 a year during the interim against 2m a year ago and *S & J North American* operations ran at a loss in the first half. In France the company is making a gradual *recovery* but at *home* the BSC strike pruned £100,000 off profits while production aimed at the retail sector has been hit by retailer destocking. Borrowings were virtually unchanged and stocks were probably no more than 5 per cent up for the group. Given the recession it is probably more difficult than usual to guess forward but Spear and *Jackson* is *much firmer based* than it was a few years ago. Short term profits may be bit by redundancy costs but assuming an unchanged dividend, and the payout might just be higher, the prospective yield at 103p is in *excess of 13* per cent. At that level Spear and Jackson could be undervalued.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock *Exchange. Such meetings are usually* held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available as to whether dividends are interims or finals and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TODAY

Interims: Brocks, Findlay Hardware, Hall Engineering, London and Manchester Assurance, Malakoff Berhad, F. Miller Textiles, James Neill, Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet, Tilbury Contracting, Thomas Walker, Williams and James (Engineers).

Finals: S. Casket, Wankie Colliery.

FUTURE DATES

Interims—	
Anchor Chemical	†Oct. 10
City of London Brewery and Investment Trust	Oct. 2
Hambro Life Assurance	Oct. 6
J.B. Holdings	Oct. 1
Jove Investment Trust	Oct. 1
Nosco Investments	Oct. 3
Wolstenholme Rink	Oct. 2
Finals—	
Campari International	Oct. 6

† Amended.

Sale Tilney down midterm

SALE TILNEY £44,000 DOWN

A FALL of £44,000 to £710,000 in pre-tax profits is reported by Salc Tilney and Co. *for the six* months to May 31, 1980. Turnover of the holding company with interests in special purpose machinery, electrical components, solvent-based and bot melt adhesives and food importing and distributing, rose slightly from £31.26m to £31.36m.

The chairman says trading conditions for most of the group's companies bave weakenad during the year, but the downturn in other areas, particularly in food distribution, *has been such that the overall* profits for the year are expected to he slightly bolow last year's £2.2m.

Tax is down *from* £302,000 to £162,000, and the interim dividend is raised from 3.15p to 3.5p—last year's total was 6.75p.

Outlook bleak for Modern Engineers

THE EFFECTS of the steel strike and the sharp downturn in capital investment by public and private sectors have left first-half 1980 pre-tax profits of Modern Engineers of Bristol (Holdings) down at £130,388 compared with £221,763.

The outlook for the rest of the year *looks bleak, says* Mr. J. O. Adler, chairman of the industrial building systems and metal treatment group. There is no apparent sign of any recovery in the industry, the volume of work available is still contracting and price levels are unsatisfactory, he adds.

The surplus, which is subject to tax of £75,965 (£120,631), also *reflects high* interest rates and large wage settlements earlier this year.

Earnings per 25p sbare are down from a stated 3.4p to 1.8p. The interim dividend is held at 1p net and again absorbs £30,000—last year a total of 3p was paid from taxable profits of £358,375.

Turnover in the first half rose *from £3.91m to £4.57m.*

The chairman says he is reasonably confident the second balf will remain profitable. Construction of a new drawing office has been completed and new plant installed at the fabrication works, and the group will be in a favourable position to resume profitable growth when the present recession ends.

Hanger Inv. just in the black

PROFITS OF Hanger Investments, Ford *main dealer and* vehicle leasing specialist, dropped sharply from £1.72m to £107,000 in the first half of 1980 and the directors say that trading conditions for the rest of the year seem likely to be more *difficult than those experienced* in the first six months.

No interim dividend is being declared—the 1979 total was 3p on pre-tax profits of £2.71m.

Mr. Peter Adams, chairman, says that trading in the first balf *was even more adverse than* foreseen in his last statement. High interest rates combined with an excess of new vehicles creating a highly competitive environment caused a severe reduction in profit margins.

Turnover for the first balf amounted to £44.21m (£39.16m), representing external sales excluding VAT but including *income from lease rentals. Trading* surplus of £925,000 against £2.2m is after £3.61m (£1.96m) depreciation in respect of vehicles on lease and £2.55m (£1.1m) financing costs.

Charges against profit of £818,000 (£479,000) include interest of £654,000 against £339,000. There is no lisbility for corporation tax as there is an excess of capital allowances over taxable profits.

● comment

Like other csr distributors, Hanger is suffering from lower sales, squeezed margins, the *high cost of financing* stocks and the deterioration of used car values. The interest charge is more than 70 per cent of a mucb redneced trading profit in the motor distribnting business. Cost-cutting measures have heeo taken and there should at least be a positive cash flow on the year. Hanger's very large vehicle leasing business remains bealthy, as tbe number of units delivered increased 20 per cent in the first half. Again, bowever, more than doubled interest charges on lease financing have cut deeply into the division's contribution. For the group as a *whole, the chairman's forecast* of even more difficnlt cooditions in the second balf points to a loss for the year and recovery depends largely on reductions in interest rates. Hanger says no interpretation should be *attached to the passed interim* dividend but the market is not expecting anything at the final. The shares fell 1p yesterday to 87p which is less than one half underlying asset value.

Galliford maintains progress

INCREASED pre-tax profits are again reported by Galliford Brindley, the Leicester industrial holding company. In each of the past ten years, the group has moved ahead and the latest figures, for the year to June 30, 1980, show an increase from *£2.87m to £3.16m.*

The group is engaged in building and development, civil engineering, heating and ventilation, engineering and plant hire.

Mr. Peter Galliford says sound results from civil engineering, private housing, development and engineering, were offset by a disappointing performance by the plant hire activities.

He says the current year has started well with the contracting companies holding order books sufficient to produce acceptable profits. Private honsing and development are accepted to be quiet until interest rates move downwards, and, likewise, engineering will be adversely affected by the recession in the manufacturing industry.

Overall, *he anticipates* a reasonable resnlt in the prevailing circumstances.

The final dividend is raised from 3p to 3.5p, making the total 4.625p (4.125p).

Food discount stores lift Singlo to £0.7m

THE SUCCESSFUL integration of a discount food retailing business acquired in the spring of last year left pretax profits of Singlo Holdings well ahead at £695,000 in the year to March 31, 1980, compared wlth £95,000.

Tbe directors of the group, which since the year end has *shed* its Indian tea interests under a scheme of arrangement and is now known as Singlo Group, say the trading results of the eight Norman's (Budleigh) discount stores continue to exceed their most optimistic expectations and current year sales have remained at a most satisfactory level.

As forecast, they are paying an interim dividend of 0.775p net in respect of the year to March 31, 1981. For the year under review a single payment of 0.522p was made.

Turnover of *the UK companies* jumped from £3.95m to £29.9m, while tea company sales slipped from £3.26m to *£3.16m.*

The surplus is struck after expenses and interest of £584,000 (£217,000), but before tax of £193,000 (£330,000).

The directors say they are continuing with a rapid, bnt controlled rationalisation of smaller *subsidiaries*, and *in* view of the continuing losses at Fieldsman Preserves, bave decided to close the manufacturing plant in Cardiff. Tbe estimated total closure costs are shown as an extraordinary debit of £180,000 (£148,000). This and minorities of £15,000 (£27,000) leave an attributable surplus of £307,000, against a loss of £410,000.

Aberdeen Construction up but sees static margins

THE BENEFIT of a reasonable winter during which outside work made progress is shown in increased first-balf 1980 turnover of £36.96m, against £26.09m at Aberdeen Construction Group, and pre-tax profits up from £845,564 to £1.12m.

Most sectors of the group have substantial workloads to execnte, says the directors, and altbough turnover for the full year will be higher than in the past, it is unlikely that profits margins will improve. Pre-tax profits for the whole of 1979 were £3.45m.

First-half earnings, after tax of £560,000 (£400,000) are shown at 5.11p (4.04p) per 25p share, and the interim dividend is lifted to 2.3p (2.1p) net. Last year's final was 3.65p.

The profit was struck after a finance debit of £122,831 (£32,761 credit) arising from investment in the Hill of Rubislaw office development. Work has now begun on a second office block of 85,000 sq. ft. of which 74,000 sq. ft. bas been pre-let to Marathon International Petroleum. *The Marathon office should* be completed in 1982.

The civil engineering division, William Tawse, has been granted permission to relocate on a new and larger site at Westhill on the outskirts of Aberdeen. The future of the land thus vacated at Hill of Rubislaw has not been determined.

Tin smelting side gives boost to AMC figures

MAINLY due to increased results from the tin smelting *division, profits* before tax of Amalgamated Metal Corporation improved from £3.87m to £7.27m in the first half of 1980. Turnover amounted to £627m compared with £604m.

The industrial division, despite disruptions of the steel strike, also increased its profits but the deepening UK recession will make it difficult for the division to *maintain* the same level of profitability in the second half, tbe directors say.

They say the current economic climate makes it more than usually difficult to anticipate the outcome for the year and are therefore maintaining the interim dividend at 3p per share—last year the total was 14p on pre-tax profits of £8.24m.

Earnings per *share in the* first balf are stated as 32.9p against 10.9p. The attributable profit amounted to £1.31m compared with £1.1m after *minorities* of £1.5m (£734,000) and an extraordinary debit of £816,000 (£360,000 credit).

The appreciation of sterling in the first half has again necessitated a £598,000 *(£754,000) charge against* reserves.

The directors say further excellent results from terminal market trading activities were partly offset by losses in certain areas of the physical trading division.

The action being taken to strengthen these areas bas contiuned with the recruitment of several experienced international metal traders in New York and London.

J. T. Parrish plunges at six months

Reflecting poor trading and greatly increased costs in its department store, pre-tax profits of J. T. Parrish plunged to £1,000 in the first *half* to August 2, 1980, compared with £49,000 for the corresponding period.

Losses of Rodney Archbold and Co., the property development subsidiory, were reduced from £23,000 to £8,000, but department store profits fell *from £72,000 to* £9,000. The directors say trade for the second half continnes to be depressed.

Increased borrowing to pay for remedial work at the Kells Lane flats will almost certainly mean further losses for Archbold in the second balf and next year, they warn.

First half turnover, net of VAT, amounted to £1.83m (£1.74m) and the surplus was struck after sharply iocreasod interest charges of £27,600 (£6,900).

In the last full year there was a loss before tax of £47,000 after a provisioo of £190,000 for remedial work at Kells Lane. The dividend was omitted.

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES—Results for six months to July 31, 1980. Franked income £592,000 *(£469,000)*. *unfranked* £329,000 (£320,000), trading profit on land £96,000 (£226,000), dealing profits £43,000 (£92,000). Tax £330,000 *(£395,000)*. *net profit* £547,000 (£541,000). Interim dividend 2.2p (2p) (estimates indicate that it should be possible to pay a final dividend of *3.8p compared with 3.5p, for the year* to January 31, 1981). Stated earnings per 25p share 2.5p (same). Net asset value per share 216.9p (181.8p) prior charges at par, and 221.5p (155.8p) prior charges at market value. Valuation of investments is £34.04m (£25.56m).

GENERAL AND COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT TRUST—Interim dividend 4p net (3.3p). Gross revenue for the half-year to August 31, 1980, £486,497 (£460,264) including franked investment income of £366,477 (£330,820) and unfranked income of £120,020 (£129,444). Net earnings after administration expenses £22,761 (£26,360), interest charges £28,728 (£52,443), corporation tax £30,000 (£28,478), tax credits imputed to franked income £109,943 (£100,702), and preference dividends £10,295 (same) were £272,650 (£243,889). Earnings per 25p share 5.12p (4.56p). Dividends £213,840 (£176,418). Gross assets at valuation after providing for dividends payable £12.75m (£12.02m). Net asset value per ordinary share 218.8p (195.0p).

NEW EQUIPMENT (tubular steel furniture)—Turnover, six months to April 30, 1980, £939,466 (£658,510). Profit £27,507 (£36,118) before tax £13 (£19,765). Earnings 1.3747p (0.8117p) per share. Interim dividend 0.35p (same).

SIZEWELL EUROPEAN INVESTMENT TRUST—Results for the year to July 31, 1980. Gross revenue, including interest received of £41,557 (£50,223) amounted to £720,626 (£636,876); expenses, including interest payable of £274,812 (£419,692) came to £351,193 (£450,925); pre-tax revenue £369,433 (£347,940). Tax £160,585 (£164,148) which takes into account relief for overseas tax of £29,274 (£27,844). Net revenue £208,848 (£183,791). Stated earnings per 10p share are 2.74p (2.3p). The dividend is increased from 2.1p to 2.4p and absorbs £192,000 (£168,000). Net assets £8.15m (£7.71m) equal to 101.8p (96.4p) per share.

THIRD MILE INVESTMENT—Net profit for half year to June 30, 1980, £33,693 (£22,717) after tax of £19,904 (£22,264). Interim dividend 0.7p (0.525p). Earnings per 25p share 1.33p (0.79p).

Poor second quarter for Brown & Jackson

A POOR second quarter for **Brown and Jackson**, building and civil engineering contractor, has reduced first-balf profits in 1980 from £2.38m to £1.39m on turnover £53.29m against £35.52m.

However, the group has successfully maintained and in several cases increased its market share, but at the expense of a fall in gross margins. Conditions in the second balf are likely to continue to be very tougb, the directors say.

The interim dividend is being maintained at 4p per share on capital increased by the May rigbts issue.

The subsidiary most affecled was Tigner Roche (London) which mada a loss of £247,000 compared witb a net profil contribution last year of £785,000. This arose from a drastic cul in gross margins and increasing provisions for slow-moving stocks.

• comment

Tbe market took its usual vengeful swipe at a faltering star yesterday when, after an interim profil collapse, the capitalisalion of Brown and Jackson was slashed hy a third with a 40p share price slump. Tha group is pinning the blame on tbe knitwear importing side, Tigner Roche, in which the turoround into a £247,000 loss almost exactly matches the overall profit decline. 1ts bigb cash position was partly drained to finance ioventories and, faced with disappearing demand, the subsidiary was forced to pare gross margins back to tbe bone to clear away the debris. Elsewhere Autoguard increased its cootribution from £300,000 to £504,000 and Gottfried and Paul chipped in £153,000 for tha first time. Against tbat, the problems in the retail trade were reflected at Grakochus, the footwear busioess, which made £428,000 in the half year against £421,000 in only the second quarter of 1979. Brown and Jackson remains determined lo atick to ita acquisitive formula and should not be slymied for want of cash but the defeoce of market share in very tough trading conditions is taking its toll of gross margins in the second half. The message has heen absorbed. After all, growth stocks do not offer prospective yields of 16.9 per cent even ln a recession.

Clarke, Nickolls at £302,000

Pre-tax profits of Clarke Nickolls and Coombs, the property investment, management and development holding company, fell from £310,540 to £302,570 in the six months to June 30, 1980.

Net rents and fees amounted to £324,403 (£326,791) but thera was a net trading loss of £9,330 compared with a profit last time of £7,711. Long-term tolerest charges totalled £10,248 (£10,259).

Ganeral expenses were up this time from £41,590 to £60,219 and dlvidends and interest charges took £57,964 (£27,887).

After deducting tax of £148,000 (£130,000), a loss on exchange rates this time of £7,469 and outside interests of £16,755 (£2,208), oet profits were down from £178,332 to £130,346.

The ioterim dividend per 25p share is up from 1.5p to 1.75p net. Last year total dividends of 3.5p were paid from pre-tax profits of £942,586.

Wiggins Teape declines in first half

FOLLOWING YESTERDAY'S announcement of group results for the first half of 1980, three **BAT Industries** subsidiaries have reported their figures for the period.

First-half turnover of Wlggins Teape Group, specialist paper maker, rose from £265.54m to £302.37m but pre-tax profits declined from £25.75m to £19.3m. However, profits are bigher than in the second half of 1979 wben they totalled £17.62m, and Mr. Patrick Best, cbairman, says specialisation and a good geographical balance of business puta Wiggina in a better position than most paper companies to withstand the effects of recession.

Nevertbeless he takes a gloomy view of prospects for 1981, saying the year will be the toughest tha company bas faced for many years and trading conditions ara unlikely to improve significantly before 1932.

Of the six months under review, he saya profits sbowed a substantial decline ln the UK but improved significantly in European and overseas operations.

The group attributable balance for the first half finished well down at £9.83m (£17.82m) and the interim dividend—£5m last time—ls being passed.

At International Stores, trading profits rose from £0.04m to £0.73m, but a £3.44m (£0.21m) net deficit on rationalisation transactions resulted in pre-tax losses of £3.17m (£2.07m).

Tbe directors report that tbe improvement in trading profitability bas been maintained but bas been offset hy the high level of rationalisation costs arising from the major restructuring of the group's businesses following recent acquisitions and disposals.

Turnover of **British American Tobaccn Company** for six months totalled £1,845m (£1,711m), pre-tax profit rose from £112m to £122m. Tax took £56m (£46m) and minorities were £12m (same).

Blue Bird falls but pays more

SECOND HALF pre-tax profits of **Blue Bird Confectionery Holdings** fell from £226,589 to £93,090 and for the full year to June 28, 1980 they were down from £553,099 to £334,315. Turnover of this confectioner and toffee manufacturer was lower at £10.24m compared with £10.9m.

The board says profitability in the first half of the current year is likely to reflect that prevailing to the end of June. Nevertheless, tbere are indicalions of a moderate growth in the volume of bome sales up to mid-September, and the trend is definitely upwards.

It is therefore likely that, barring unforeseen national problems, profits should be substantially better in the second half.

The pre-tax figure was struck after depreciation and interest of £244,468 (£160,599) and exception debits of £61,469 (£27,836). After tax substantially higher at £156,062 (£43,037), attributable profit is £178,253 (£510,062) and stated earnings per 25p share are 4.8p (13.9p). Tbe nat final dividend is raised from 2.52p to 2.9p for a total of 4.35p (3.78p).

The board says the increased dividend reflects its view that returns on ordinary shares generally in the UK are ton low, particularly when compared with interest rates. It also reflects some cautious optimism for the future, resulting from the extra efforts by all members of the company since the end of the financial year.

Union to fight

THE EXECUTIVE of the 187,000-strong Union of Communication Workers decided yesterday to oppose at next week's Lahour Party conference the mandatory reselection of MPs and to support the original Mikardo proposal on the issue.

It also declded to oppose the other Leftist proposals for an electoral college to select the party's leader and for the NEC to draw up the manifesto.

Haden Carrier up to £1.69m

FROM increased turnover of £107.26m against £99.1m, profits before tax of Haden Carrier, building services and metal finishing engineer, rose from £1.15m to £1.69m in the first six months of 1980.

Mr. P. G. Simonls, chairman, says the year is developing in the manner forecast in his statement in the last annual report, and should maiotain the steady improvement achieved in the past two years.

The interim dividend is being lifted from 3.25p to 3.6p. Last year's total was 10p from pre-tax profits of £3.78m.

The chairman says that demand for the group's mechanical and electrical engineering services ln the UK has beld up well and in the Middle East, improved performance on current contracts has been maintained.

In metal finisbing operations, there bas been a steady perform ance ln UK and Spain, coupled with good order intakes in U.S., France and Belgium.

• comment

Haden Carrier's 46 per cent pre-tax profit increase in the first half is due mainly to the elimination of losses in France and the Middle East. In the Middle East, where the group bas suffered in the past few years from two large unprofitable contracts, new work is yielding more satisfactory results. In France and in the U.S., Carrier Drysys is enjoying a surge of orders for its metal paint shops as the major U.S. car manufacturers retool for small car production. Profits at Universal King in the U.S., where a new conveyor system factory has been built, have been slower to develop and the Australian loss, £300,000 last year, will be reduced but nnt eliminated this year. Margins in the UK, where the group does balf its business, are under pressure but the ontlook for the ramainder of the year remains very promising. Group pre-tax profit could reach £4.5m. Even after the shares gained 7p yesterday to 146p, the prospective fully-taxed p/e ia only about 5 and the prospective yield a tantalising 11 per ceot.

Waring and Gillow's U.S. expansion

Waring and Glllow, the stores company, bas purchased Klmels, a U.S. company operating three furnisblng stores, for $2m cash.

Waring and Gillow is to acquire two further stores at Tampa and Clearwatar in Florida, and is currently looking at other areas in which to expand, including Philadelphla and Orlando.

Waring also said tbe integration of Maples was progressing smoothly.

J. Makin improves to £1.18m

PROFITS before tax of **J. and J. Makin Paper Mills** increased from £1.11m to £1.18m in the year ended March 31, 1980, on turnover of £17.32m compared with £13.79m. The improvement in profit is due to the paper side as profits from the metal powder associate were lower.

Profits have held up well in the current year's first half despite difficulties in the paper industry but there is now short-time working in some sections. The metal powder company is still depressed in view of its dependence on tbe motor trade, the directors say.

For the following balf-year to March 31 next year, the outlook is anything but promising and in view of the current uncertainties, the Board bas decided to keep the dividend at the previous year'a level—the total is 3p with a final payment of 2p.

OEM slips in first six months

TAXABLE profits of **Office and Electronic Machines**, office equipment distributor, slipped from £1.48m to £1.37m in the first six months of 1980, on turnover down 9.7 per cent at £12.28m.

While they expect trading conditions to remaio difficult for the second half, directors say the group is maintaining its market sbare.

They are repeating tbe interim dividend of 2.5p—last year a total of 6.5p was paid from pre-tax profits of £3.11m.

Earnings, after tax of £713,253 (£767,371), are shown as 10.75p (11.56p). The dividend absorbs £153,122 (same), leaving a retained surplus of £505,266 (£555,220) Depreciation this time amounted to £62,801 (£64,446).

APV increases overseas profits but down overall

PRE-TAX PROFITS of **APV Holdings** dropped by £302,000 to £7.41m in the half-year to June 30, 1980. Turnover, excluding inter-company sales, was np from £120.85m to £134.95m.

Mr. H. P. N. Benson, chairman of this holding company engaged in development, manufacture, sale and installation of specialised process plant, says the group's UK companies contributed less than last year in spite of higher turnover, thus emphasising the pressure on margins. The overseas companies increased their profits by £600,000 despite a loss on currency translation of £128,000.

He says he expects the group to follow its usual pattern of higher profits in the second half, bnt although overseas profits for the 12 months should exceed last year, the effects of the recession in the UK will continue to be felt. Group profits for the year are unlikely to reach last year's £19m, he adds.

Trading profit of the parent company and its subsidiaries was down from £8.85m to £8.64m. Associates share was a loss of £37,000 (£34,000). Interest was higher at £1.2m (£1.1m) and after tax of £3.11m (£3.26m), stated earnings per 50p share are 14.7p (15.3p) basic, and 13.2p (13.8p) fully diluted.

The interim dividend is unchanged at 2.8p—last year's total was 8.4p.

Commenting on the first half's figures, Mr. Benson says order intake was £144m compared with £123m in 1978 using the same exchange rates. The first three months were particularly good at £79m, bnt there was a reduction io the second quarter to £65m and as yet there is no sign of a recovery.

He says the UK orders have been particularly affected since April, not only by the recesslon in the home market, but also by the strength of sterling coupled with the high inflation rates. This makes the group less competitive in export markets.

• comment

The market had already decided that the historically strong contracting engineers were capable of outperforming the market and the recent rise in the Simon Engineering and now the **APV** sbare price ln response to interim figures reinforces thls helief. Both stocks are within an ace of the annual peak and are clearly lndependent of income as a support. Up 12p to 215p yesterday, APV now yields 5.6 per cent historically which is very mnch in line with Simon at 286p. The benefits of international expertise, long unbroken track records and wide geographical business spreads have not been overlooked but an investment decision at this point, and it would be a fine comparative judgment, might be influenced by the fact that Simon is taking in net interest of about £1m while APV is paying broadly the same amount to service debt. Simon's interim profits grew marginally while APV is down fractionally after six months. St. Regis' hig stake does limit APV's marketability but, in the context of long term contracts, slight profit growth differentials need not mean much over a six month span.

Berkeley Hambro advances

GROSS INCOME of **Berkeley Hambro Property Company** for the six months to June 30, 1980, totalled £3.24m compared with £3.57 in the corresponding period last year. This inalnded rental income of £2.58m, against £2.81m.

Pre-tax profits were up from £1.96m to £2.1m after property outgoings and management expenses of £1.2m (£1.21m), interest charges of £400,000 (£910,000) and receivable interest of £448,000 (£495,000).

Mr. Jocelyn Hambro, chairman, says that approximately 60 per cent of the greup's profits last year were earned in the first balf. He anticipates earnings will be more evenly spread this year and will show an improvement over last year.

The tax charge this time was £788,000 against £681,000. Stated earnings per 25p share were better at 7.73p (7.56p). The interim dividend is up from 2.5p to 3p net. Last year total dividends of 5.5p were paid from pre-tax profits of £3.58m.

Streeters back in profit

DESPITE turnover sliding from £6.35m to £5.47m, **Streeters of Godalming**, the public works contractor, bounced back into profit in the first-half of 1980.

For the period, the company announces a taxable surplus of £147,000, compared with a loss of £394,000. There was a deficit of £1.04m for the whole of the previous year. The half-time figure was struck after profits of associated companies amounting to £75,000 (£13,000).

The directors say the results for the six months justify the policies of preserving the group's traditional markets but they warn that trading conditions continue to be difficult.

Stated earnings per 10p share are 0.9p (2.4p loss) after a tax charge this time of £76,000, against a credit of £205,000.

There is again no interim dividend. The last payment was in 1977 when a total equal to 1.69p net was paid.

The sale of the group's shareholding in Rees-Hough has been completed and negotiations are continuing for the disposal of its holding in Shorco Trench Systems.

Barlow upsurge to £1.91m

Taxable profits of **Barlow Holdings** advanced in the first half of 1980 from £1.56m to £1.91m. Sales edged ahead to £3.8m, compared with £3.5m.

During the six months profitability was maintained by satisfactory crops, except cocoa where profits dropped from £237,082 to £67,876. But increased earnings from other sources cushioned the shortfall from the cocoa crop aa predicted by the chairman in his statement in July.

Rubber contributed taxable profits in the half year of £184,399 (£235,016) and oil palm and coconuts £723,498 (£790,300).

The exceptional price levels of the previous two years are unlikely to be repeated in the very near future, the directors warn.

The interim dividend is a same-again 1p net. Last year a final of 2p was paid from pre-tax profits of £3.98m.

Tax for the six months took £952,500 (£875,000) leaving stated earnings per 10p share up from 1.46p to 1.99p.

There was a profit on the sale of investments during the period of £168,285 (nil). However, dividends and interest took £468,539 (£211,622) and minorities £24,008 (nil).

The comparative figures for the half year include only three months from Muar River Rubber Co.

MINING NEWS

Renison finds more tin ore

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

THE Consolidated Gold Fields group's highly profitable Renison tin operation in Tasmania has increased its ore potential. At the Sydney meeting Mr. Bart Ryan, the chairman, said that exploration of the mining lease area has defined sufficient new ore reserves which compensate for ore mined and add a further 700,000 tonnes to the ore reserves.

In addition, exploration work off the mine lease area has proved encouraging in the Blue Tier area of north-east Tasmania in which Renison has a 61 per cent interest. Drilling has indicated a modarate tonnage of low grade, but metallurgically simple, tin mineralisation.

Mr. Ryan said that studies of the Blue Tier area show that the grade may support a viable operation if the ore tonnage can be expanded. So far the tonnage necessary to support a mining operation there has not been defined.

The meeting approved Renison's capital proposals. These are that each of the fully paid 50 cent shares be subdivided into two shares of 25 cents. Tha company will now go ahead with the already announced scrip issue of three new 25 cents sharea for each 20 split shares of 25 cents held on October 16.

In the year to last June when Gold Fields group profit before interest and tax advanced by 51 per cent to £159.7m, the contribution of mining operations of subsidiary companies jumped by 148 per cent to £20.9m and the largest contributor in this section was again Renison.

South Crofty opposition

THE BOARD of South Crofty, the Cornish tin mining company controlled by St. Piran, yesterday faced a revolt of small shareholders at the Camborne annual meeting.

From fermer South Crofty chairman, Colonel Peter Buchanan, there was a demand for a board reconstructien se that a majority of directers wonld again be Cornish residents.

From the attending shareholders in general there was a decisive show of hands against the re-election ef four St. Piran-nominated directors, including the chairman, Mr. Malcolm Stene. The others were Messrs. Victor Skinner, William Shaw and J. S. Barnett.

There was an equally decisive show of hands against the already criticised recommendation that South Crofty's share premium account should be reduced by more than £1m.

Mr. Stone ordered a ballot, adjourned the meeting until October 1, when it will be resumed in London and the results declared.

Mr. Stone told the meeting that the mine had started the current financial year operating at a loss but was now just abnut breaking even. Over the next fiva years £2.5m would be spent on increasing production.

Dividend after eight years

The first dividend since 1972 will be paid by Southern Peru Copper Corperation Unit which is 52.3 per cent owned by Asarco.

The dividend and a joint venture distribution will amount to about $69.7m (£29m).

Southern Peru will pay $42.3m to its shareholders in accordance with their investment in class A shares and common stock. The balance of $27.4m will go to Royal Dutch Shell Group's Billiteu the joint venturer with Southern Peru in the $726m Cuajene copper project.

Asarco said payments on class A shares and to Billiton represent a prierity distributien in accordance with previous arrangements made to secure the equity capital needed to complete the Cuajone mine. Asarco will receive $25.4m and among the other shareholders Marmon Group will recieve $2.6m, Newmont Mining Corporation $6.4m, and Phelps Dodge Corpnration $7.9m.

Duiker raising funds for new gold venture

LARGELY in order to fioance its initial share of the development cost of the proposed new gold mining operation in Soulb Africa's Erfdeel - Dankbaarbeid area of the Orange Free State, the Lonrho group's Duiker Exploration is to make a rights issne. Further details, it is stated, will be announced on or before October 6.

It is added, bowever, that Tweefontein United Collieries and Witbank Consolidated Coal Mines, which are the beneficial owners of approximately 28.5 per cent and 15 per cent respectively of Duiker, will reoounce their entitlements in the issue in favour of their shareholders. The latter will be offered these share entitlements direct by Duiker.

Mining rights to the Erfdeel-Dankbaarbeld area are ewned as to 60 per cent by the Anglo American Corporation group and 40 per cent by Duiker. Although the area contains some 62m tonnes of mineable ore, the gold grade is low at about 4.5 grammes per tonne and it would probably not be a profitable proposition as a mine in its own right.

Bnt, as reported here in July, the plan is to tackle it as an extension of the existing Free State Saaiplaas mine. The nearby Welkom and Western Holdings mines are to be combined and Free State Saaiplaas will cede the enlarged mining lease area to Western Holdings thereby making use of both operating and, importantly, tax advantages.

Gross revenue and expenditure of the new mining area will be shared as to 15 per cent by Western Heldings and 85 per cent by a new company to be formed. Initial holders of the new company will be Anglo American and participants 44.5 per cent, Anglo American Gold Investment 9.5 per cent, Duiker 36 per ceot and Western Holdings 10 per cent. A listing for shares in the new company will be considered in due course.

Manor National dives into loss

CONSIDERABLY lower tradiog margins and unexpected problems over the acquisitioo of C.G.S.B. Holdings has resulted in Manor National Group Motors reporting a loss of £21,000 for the half-year to June 30, 1980. Last time there was a pre-tax profit of £723,000. Turnover climbed from £24.33m to £33.95m.

The chairman says strong action has been taken at C.G.S.B. to reduce current trading losses. Stocks and debtors have heen reduced overmanning has been identified and a redundaocy programme carried out: unprofitable branches have been closed and reonsequently bank borrowings have been lowered by £1m.

Steps have been taken to improve profit margins, and as a result the way bas been paved fer achieving profitability.

With regard to C.G.S.B., the chairman reported in his last annual statement: "Profits for the year ended September 30, 1979, bad been estimated at £45,000. The audited accounts for the 15 months to December 31, 1979, show losses of £215,000, and trading for the first three months ef 1980 continues to show losses."

He now says it is evident from reports reecived from the auditors that "adjustments will be required to the reserves at January 1, 1980, to allow for what, in the board's view, is an over-valuation of stocks at that date. In the light of this and the assurances given in the offer document by the C.G.S.B. directors and their advisers, further professional advice is being sought."

No interim dividend is being paid against 1p last time and a tetal of 2.5p from pre-tax profits of £1.22m. The board says favourable consideration will be given to the payment of a final dividend when the results for the full year have been ascertained.

The company is looking to British Leyland for new models to assist sales and profits. With the new Ital and Metro it expects increases in sales volume and profitability. This, together with other model improvements will in the short-term, assist until the new Bounty model is introduced from which the company expects long-term benefits.

Difficult trading conditiens are very much in evidence, says the chairman, but tight rootrol of investment in stocks and debtors will continue to assist in reduction of interest charges.

After tax ef £31,000 (£86,000) in the first half and an extraordioary debit of £68,000 (credit £142,000), there is a loss per 20p share of 0.7p (earniogs 4.2p).

Setback for Hunt & Moscrop

WITH second half pre-tax profits plnogiog from £284,568 to £50,113, Hunt and Moscrop (Middleton), industrial machinery manufacturer, reports figures down from £930,568 to £258,113 for the full year to June 30, 1980. Turnover was slightly lower at £20.04m compared with £20.48m.

The chairman says trading conditions continued to be extremely difficult in the second half, with the high cost ef borrowing adversely affecting the results. Interest charges for the year accouoted for £326,263 (£161,811).

The reorganisatioo programme is producing a more efficieot structure well able to cope with the varying demands in this sector. The combination o fthis and the improving casb generation means the board can recommend the maintenance of the final dividend. This will be 0.5425p net against 0.54272p for a total of 0.9p (0.90022p). Dividends absorb £210,904 (£210,958).

Trading profit for the year was £303,760 (£1.11m). Associates losses were £19,384 (£16,857) and after minorities of £9,830 (£4,593), and tax of £46,499 (£221,965), net profits came nut at £221,444 (£713,196). Reorganisation costs, less tax, amounted to £501,742 (£20,981). Reserves at June 30 were lower at £2.68m compared with £3.17m.

The directors believe that from the current order position, the group is maintaining its share of the market with export sales continuing at reasonable levels.

Ransomes lays off 400

BY ELAINE WILLIAMS

ABOUT 400 redundancies and short-time for 2,000 workers were announced yesterday by Ransemes, Sims and Jeffries, the Ipswich agricultural machinery manufacturer.

Productioo is to be cut by 20 per cent with most workers starting a four-day week from Monday. Talks are taking place between unions and management to discuss the cuts.

A further 100 jebs could be lost at Richard Garrett, the engineering company based at Leiston, Suffolk over the next two weeks.

The Official Receiver was called in two months ago when Garretts failed to raise £1m from bankers to keep themselves operating. Negotiatiens over the company's future continue.

The engineering company of Charles Wicksteed of Kettering, Northants, is to close its machine tool division after 70 years' operation. One quarter of the company's 200 strong workforce is to be made redundant next month. Wicksteed will concentrate, instead, on the manufacture of children's playground equipment.

Esso plan for chemical plant is approved

By Martin Dickson

ESSO CHEMICALS has been given the go-ahead by Fife Region's planning committee to change the locatien of its planned £300m ethylene cracker from one part of the huge Mossmorran petro-chemicals complex to another part of the site.

Esso was given planning permission for the plant by the Government last year. But in March, the company applied to change the cracker's location from the northeast quadrant of the Mossmorran site to the southwest one. This would allow the northern part of the site to be left free for downstream petrochemicals works.

Esso expects to start site preparation in March next year and to bring the cracker on stream by the end of 1984. There has been no indication which downstream plants might make use of the cracker's ethylene—a basic building block of the chemicals industry. But Esso said recently that Mossmorran was one of a number of European locations where it was considering further downstream activity.

High Court post for Thorpe case prosecutor

MR. PETER TAYLOR, QC, who condncted the prosecution in the Jeremy Thorpe trial last year, bas been appointed a High Court judge, it was announced today.

He succeeds Mr. Justice Griffiths who was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal in July.

Five new circuit judges and three recorders were also named today.

The judges are, for the south-eastern circuit, Mr. Francis John Aglionby, Mr. John Hunter, Mr. Aron Owen and Mr. Alistair Newburn Troup.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Ex'rcise price	Oct. Closing offer	Oct. Vol.	Jan. Closing offer	Jan. Vol.	April Closing offer	April Vol.	Equity close
BP	300	94	—	110	80	—	—	388p
BP	330	64	1	86	—	86	—	"
BP	360	34	63	56	3	76	—	"
BP	390	12	84	34	71	54	3	"
BP	420	4	46	—	—	—	—	"
Com. Union	140	37	2	43	—	45	—	177p
Com. Union	160	17	8	28	3	30	—	
Cons. Gold	500	147	41	160	—	183	—	643p
Cons. Gold	550	97	20	125	2	145	—	"
Cons. Gold	600	45	139	95	1	118	—	"
Cons. Gold	650	81	55	68	28	88	—	"
Courtaulds	80	½	10	1½	—	—	—	67p
GEC	550	8	—	35	3	55	—	517p
Grand Met.	130	24	—	38	1	—	—	162p
Grand Met.	140	14	45	24	17	28	—	"
ICI	390	1½	6	13	—	21	—	353p
Land Secs.	353	36	2	158	—	—	—	381p
Land Secs.	390	11	65	35	15	48	3	"
Shell	390	43	54	60	—	78	—	423p
Shell	420	15	102	48	90	56	—	"
Shell	460	3	10	81	37	34	—	"
Totals			751		352		6	
		November		February		May		
Imperial Gp.	80	8½	—	6½	3	8½	—	76p
Lonrho	94	15	13	84	—	—	—	108p
Lonrho	104	10	16	17	—	—	—	"
Lonrho	110	—	—	—	—	18	41	"
Lonrho	114	5	38	18	138	—	—	
Racal Elec.	330	14	26	31	—	46	—	314p
RTZ	464	40	10	63	—	80	—	474p
RTZ	494	16	5	45	—	58	—	"
Totals			109		136		41	

SPAIN

September 25	Price %	+ or −
Banco Bilbao	240	+2
Banco Central	268	
Banco Exterior	210	
Banco Hispano	227	+2
Banco Ind. Cat.	120	
Banco Madrid	141	
Banco Santander	271	
Banco Urquijo	136	
Banco Vizcaya	248	+2
Banco Zaragoza	248	
Dragados	110	
Espanola Zinc	72	−1
Fecsa	63.7	+0.8
Gal. Preciados	31.5	+2.5
Hidrola	68.7	−0.3
Iberduero	65.5	−0.5
Petroleos	112	−1
Petroliber	80	+1
Sogefisa	102	
Telefonica	63.5	+0.8
Union Elect.	68.5	

Diamond Intl. hit by slump in housing

By Our Financial Staff

DIAMOND INTERNATIONAL, the forest products group in which Sir James Goldsmith's Cavenham Development has a 24 per cent stake, saw third quarter profits slump by 38 per cent from $14.92m to $9.21m.

Sales for the 12 weeks were down from $313m to $304.8m and earnings per share dropped from $1.11 previously to 57 cents. This, however, represents an improvement on the second quarter earnings of 33 cents a share.

After nine months net profits were 41 per cent down at $25.96 compared with $43.99m, with earnings per share at $1.77 against $3.27. Sales for the nine months came to $861.8m ($884.4m previously).

Mr. William Koslo, the chairman, said the principal reason for the fall from last year's record figures were the continuing slump in housing starts and the start-up expenses related to new facilities.

Lumber and retail building materials, two important segments of the business which normally account for around 38 per cent of sales and 44 per cent of profits, were significantly affected by the downturn in housing and construction.

Mr. Koslo said: "High mortgage rates and uncertainty as to the general economic outlook are continuing to prevail nationwide and they are currently having an adverse impact on the houing market. However, we are optimistic about a recovery and turnaround in this area by the first quarter of 1981."

Diamond's other interests include packaging, pulp, paper and printing.

Bank discloses review plans

By Our Financial Staff

CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS, the Chicago-based bank holding company, is conducting a comprehensive review of its operations "with an eye to decreasing or eliminating unprofitable or very low yielding activities," said Mr. David Taylor, executive vice-president and treasurer. He did not identify any operations that might be pruned.

Mr. George Baker, vice-president, general banking services, said Continental Illinois expects growth in its commercial, multinational and international loans in 1981 or 5 to 10 per cent.

German group bidding for General Motors unit

BY IAN HARGREAVES IN NEW YORK

GENERAL MOTORS is understood to be holding talks with IBH Holding of West Germany about the possible sale of GM's Terex division, which makes heavy duty construction vehicles.

GM would not confirm reports of negotiations yesterday, but the sale would fit into the company's policy of selling interests outside its mainline motor business, which is in the middle of a five-year, $40bn capital reinvestment programme, stretching the resources even of the mighty GM.

Terex, which GM acquired in 1953, is a relatively small fry in the U.S. construction equipment industry and Wall Street analysts believe that the division has struggled to make profits in the shadow of bigger competitors such as Caterpillar Tractor.

Terex is thought to have annual revenues of about $500m, compared with Caterpillar's $7.6bn, and could be worth about $250m to the Germans.

With the U.S. construction industry still firmly in recession, Terex is almost certainly operating deep in the red. But it would be attractive to IBH, which earlier this year bought a stake in Pettibone, a Chicago-based construction equipment company.

At this stage, IBH's stake is 13 per cent but is seeking to raise it to 25 per cent. The company has also made extensive acquisitions in Europe, including Hymac of the UK and Massey-Ferguson's Hanomag subsidiary. Powell Duffryn, the UK engineering group, in turn has a 23 per cent stake in IBH from its sale of Hymac to IBM.

Terex has plants in Brazil, Scotland and Canada. In addition to its main plant in Hudson, Ohio.

Early last year GM sold its Frigidaire appliance company.

● Car sales in the U.S. have continued at extremely depressed levels, dropping 39 per cent in the mid-September period from a year earlier.

The figures, however, could be erratic: some companies are not counting current sales of their new models because the new model year does not officially start until next month.

One reason for this is that Chrysler, in particular, will be anxious to produce the best possible sales figures for October in order to build confidence in its new K-car models on which the survival of the company is pinned.

Sharp downturn at Measurex

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

THE SETBACK in orders for its computerised control systems in the first half of the year has caught up with Measurex Corporation in the third quarter. But there are signs that the situation is improving.

Profits for the first nine months show a 23 per cent fall to $5.7m or $1.63 a share. The board is making no estimate of the outlook, however. Sales for the period are $4m up at $90.2m while the order backlog has dropped from $30.7m to $26.4m.

In the third quarter, profits tumbled from $2.5m to $1.4m or 41 cents a share. Sales were also down sharply from $29.9m against $31.5m.

Measurex attributed the lower third quarter net earnings to a decline in equipment sales revenues which in turn reflected lower orders in the first half of the year.

It said that equipment orders improved in the third quarter to $19.5m from $17.0m in the comparable period.

The balance sheet strengthened in the third quarter. Accounts receivable improved by $4.1m to $40.7m and inventories were reduced by $1m to $47.4m.

In 1979, Measurex, which manufactures computer-based control systems for the pulp and paper, and rubber, plastics and metals industries, earned $2.82 a share on sales of $119m. Foreign operations provided 60 per cent of sales and 51 per cent of earnings.

But during the first half of the current year, profit margins tightened sharply as a result of higher servicing costs and earnings began to slip lower. The additional blow of reduced orders as the pulp and paper industry began to feel the recession, clearly hurt the company in the third quarter.

The company has developed a line of energy management systems which in fiscal 1977 brought in 9 per cent. In June, the board noted increasing orders for such systems.

Del Monte to diversify from canned products

NEW YORK—Del Monte Corporation is diversifying away from the canned fruits and vegetables that long have been a fixture on grocery store shelves.

Its marketing efforts will focus instead on fresh fruits, frozen foods, ethnic foods and low calorie desserts, which show more growth potential than the traditional canned food lines, according to Mr. Richard Landis, the chairman.

Pineapple production illustrates the changes to be implemented under the current five-year plan.

Del Monte's pineapple-growing Philippine subsidiary appears to have reached its full potential, while canned fruits are yielding lower profits. No additional investments are planned for now in Asia but the company is diversifying its production sources by developing a new pineapple farm in Costa Rica. The fruit grown there will be shipped fresh, rather than in cans, to the eastern U.S. and Europe, where Del Monte seeks an expanded market share. AP-DJ

City Investing plans to divest

By Our Financial Staff

THE DIRECTORS of City Investing, the U.S. conglomerate, have approved plans for the sale of assets with a book value of $541m. The assets are estimated to have a market value of around $800m.

The company said the move towards the sale represented the first phase of a programme designed to realise the value of the company's assets. The objective was to maximise returns to shareholders and the proceeds of the sale would mainly be applied to reducing debts, it said.

South African credit set for market

By Peter Montagnon

SOUTH AFRICA'S $250m Eurocredit looks set for open market syndication next week. A five or six bank second-tier management group is virtually complete and it is already confirmed that Commerzbank, Kredietbank International and Standard Chartered have joined.

The Republic of South Africa decided to go ahead with the credit, its largest single borrowing abroad, after it was proposed by West Germany's Dresdner Bank, which is in the lead management group alongside Barclays Bank, Citicorp, Credit Commercial de France and UBS.

It bears a margin of ⅞ per cent for the first two years rising to 1 per cent for the remaining five. The proceeds are to finance social amenities for the country's black and coloured population.

Senior South African officials visiting London this week said the total cost of the projects covered is some $300m. There are, however, no current plans to increase the amount of the credit; this would only happen if it was ammasively oversubscribed in syndication.

The projects covered will be clearly enumerated in the loan documentation. This encourage into the operation banks who might otherwise abstain for political reasons.

South African officials said that a wide spectrum of banks are being asked to participate. They expected that Japanese banks would contribute, although they acknowledged that there is still political resistance "at board level" to South Africa in some major U.S. banks.

South Africa intends to tap the Euromarkets regularly from now on. A further large project financing credit is expected before the end of the year.

DM 150m issue for Austrian bank

By Francis Ghilès

A DM 150m eight-year bullet issue was launched for Oesterreichische Kontrollbank by Deutsche Bank last night. The borrower is paying a coupon of 8½ per cent on these bonds which are expected to be priced at par, to yield 8.5 per cent.

This marks an increase in the yield offered on paper for an Austrian borrower. Two weeks ago the Republic of Austria offered 12-year paper on a yield of 8.32 per cent. This paper is, however, standing at a two-point discount from its issue price of 99½.

Prices of seasoned foreign D-Mark bonds slipped ¼ per cent yesterday in thin trading while Swiss franc bond prices were unchanged on the day.

In the dollar sector prices were virtually unchanged on the day. The $20m 15-year issue for Marion International was priced yesterday, offering a final coupon of 9 per cent, ½ per cent below the figure initially indicated. The bonds quickly went to a premium in early trading where they were quoted by lead manager Blyth Eastman Paine Webber at 100½-101½.

The coupon on the $20m 10-year convertible was fixed at 8⅞ per cent by lead managers Hambros last night with the conversion premium at 7.3 per cent.

The coupon on the $25m 15-year convertible for Henson Trust was set at 9½ per cent and the conversion premium at 6 per cent by CSFS yesterday.

A convertible bond for Lear Petroleum was widely anticipated to be launched late yesterday evening.

Bell Canada testifies

By Our Financial Staff

THE PROPOSALS put forward by Canada's Director of Combines Investigation for the liberalisation of domestic telephone market would "threaten a healthy industry," the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission was told by counsel for Bell Canada.

The Director's opinion was that a more open market for telephone equipment would create growth through competition.

But he added the proviso that any move to open up the Canadian industry to foreign competition should include a requirement for reciprocal action by those nations who, unlike the U.S., do not at present open their own domestic markets to Canadian manufacturers.

But Bell counsel argued that any moves to open up the Canadian market to competition would be beyond the Commission's legal authority.

The company's legal representatives were responding to a closing argument to the Director who had called for a remedy to Bell Canada's domination of the telephone equipment market through its Northern Telecom subsidiary.

GENERAL MOTORS DO BRASIL

Aiming to be number one

BY RIK TURNER IN SAO PAULO

THE BRAZILIAN subsidiary of General Motors has set one clear objective: to become No. 1 in the domestic market according to Mr. Joseph Sanchez, president of GM do Brasil.

"That means having 35 per cent of the market, and our present share is 22 per cent." The market leader at the moment is Volkswagen with 42 per cent.

GM do Brasil's plans to take 13 per centage points of market share away from Volkswagen and other competitors call for a broadly-based assault on the marketplace.

According to Mr. Sanchez, the first prong is the remodelled Opala line, launched earlier this year. The Opala is the company's major contender in the medium to large car market, which is expanding in Brazil as the cost of petrol forces owners of big cars to turn to smaller models. The company has also launched two more new models: a 1.6 litre sports version of the Chevette and an estate car also using Chevette mechanics, to be called the Marajo.

But the major offensive will come in 1982 when GM will launch its "World Car," at the moment code-named the J-Car. Proposed total investment by GM do Brasil for all developments between 1980 and 1983 is $500m, "of which $65m is for the expansion of our Sao Jose dos Campos plant, where we will be producing the engine for the J-Car," explained Mr. Sanchez.

This indicates the importance of Brazil in the GM world strategy, as it is the only country outside the developed world where GM will be producing J-Car engines, the others being the U.S., Canada, Germany, Japan and Australia.

Ford do Brasil has so far found it impossible to include Brazil in its World Car strategy due to the Government's 85 per cent minimum local content for components. GM is having no such problems with the J-Car in Brazil, however, as only transaxles will have to be imported.

The one as yet unknown factor in the J-Car is its price. "We hope to price the new car, which will be bigger than the Chevette, below that of the Opala, but investment costs are now higher than what our competitors were paying to develop new models two or three years ago." But GM is not alone in its problem of introducing a new model in a section of the market where it already has a long established and, therefore, much cheaper model.

> The Brazilian subsidiary of General Motors has an important role in the strategy of the parent company. It ranks high in the list of corporate investment priorities, being chosen as a producer of engines for GM's new World Car. It also plans to be number one in the Brazilian market

Mr. Sanchez cited the case of VW's Golf, which carries the Beetle 1.3 litre engine but is much more expensive than the VW Beetle, produced in Brazil since 1952.

The company's main hope for the small car market remains the Chevette. "We will stay with the Chevette because there are still a lot of things we can do in terms of weight reductions and additional variations."

When the expansion of the engine plant is complete, production of the J-Car engine will be set at 330,000 units per annum. Of these 80,000 will be for the domestic market and the rest for export. But in 1981, as there will be no J-Cars on the market in Brazil, the total production will be exported.

Thus, Mr. Sanchez expects to export goods worth $130m next year, a 30 per cent increase on this year. Exports in 1980 were the same as those for 1979, he added.

In addition to complete vehicles and next year's engines, GM do Brasil is a major supplier of completely knocked down car kits. It is the only country outside the developed world exporting kits.

Asked about the possibility of a "World Truck," Mr. Sanchez replied that a meeting on the subject is to be held in the UK, where the GM subsidiary, Vauxhall, it to help Brazil develop its truck range using the experience of the Bedford lorries. In terms of total profits, those deriving from outside the North American operation represented 20 per cent of GM Corporation's total $62bn profits in 1979. Of this, $1.5bn came from [illegible].

As for the company's commitment to Brazil's [illegible] programme of ethanol [illegible] in petrol, GM will [illegible] a total of 10,000 [illegible] year. "This represents [illegible] of all alcohol-driven [illegible] manufactured [illegible] this year," Mr. Sanchez [illegible].

Consumer reaction [illegible] powered vehicles [illegible] positive, especially [illegible] prices are subsidised [illegible] them lower than [illegible] areas of Brazil where ethanol is readily available, between 50 and 80 per cent of incoming orders are for alcohol cars.

Meanwhile GM will be introducing ideas borrowed from Japanese labour relations techniques. "We are putting together quality circles, where workers will work an extra [illegible] minutes on overtime to think out improvements in productivity."

In addition to the quality circles, the company will [illegible] improving personnel appraisal and the worker feedback mechanism generally, "making the employee feel part of the final decision-making process."

FT INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

The list shows the 200 latest international bond issues for which an adequate secondary market exists. For further details of these or other bonds see the complete list of Eurobond prices published on the second Monday of each month.

Closing prices on September [illegible]

U.S. DOLLAR STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	Change on week	Yield
Brit. Oxygen F. 10¼ 90	50	83¼	83¾	+0¼	−1	13.91
CECA 11½ 88	100	93½	93¾	0	−0¼	12.88
Citicorp O/S Fin. 10 86	300	89⅝	90⅛	−0⅛	−0½	12.54
Con. Illinois O/S 8¾ 86	150	87⅞	88⅛	−0⅛	−0½	12.79
Denmark 11½ 90	100	91⅞	92⅜	0	−0⅝	13.21
Dome Petroleum 13½ 92	50	100⅞	101⅜	−0⅛	−0⅛	13.27
EEC 11 95	75	86⅝	87⅛	0	−0⅜	13.03
EEC 11 85	70	86⅛	87	+0⅛	−1	13.07
EIB 11¾ 92	80	90	91¼	0	−0⅞	13.38
EIB 13¾ 90	100	102⅛	102⅝	−0⅛	−0⅜	13.26
Eksportfinans 11¾ 87	50	94⅛	94⅝	−0⅛	−0½	12.60
Eksportfinans 9½ 87	75	86⅛	86⅝	−0⅛	−0½	12.58
Elec. de France 10 88	125	87¼	87¾	0	−0½	12.59
Export Dv. Cpn. 13¾ 87	100	99⅝	100⅛	+0⅛	−0⅜	12.71
Export Dv. Cpn. 9½ 86	150	87⅞	88⅜	+0⅛	−0⅛	12.88
Federal Dev. Bk. 12¾ 85	75	98⅜	98⅞	−0⅛	−0½	12.81
Fin. Exp. Credit 10½ 85	50	90⅞	91⅜	0	−0⅜	13.08
Finland Rep. of 9½ 86	100	86⅜	86⅞	0	−0⅞	13.03
Ford O/S Fin. 12⅜ 85	250	97	97½	−0⅛	−0⅜	13.40
George Weston 13½ 87	30	99¼	99¾	0	−0⅛	13.57
GMAC O/S Fin. 11 84	100	94⅜	94⅞	−0⅛	−0⅞	12.88
GMAC O/S Fin. 13⅜ 85	100	101¼	101¾	−0⅛	−0⅞	12.86
Goodyear O/S 12½ 87	75	97¼	97¾	+0⅛	−0⅛	13.04
Hudson's Bay 11½ 90	75	91⅞	92⅜	−0⅛	−0⅞	12.94
IBM Canada 10¼ 85	50	94⅛	94⅝	−0⅛	−0½	12.05
ICI Fin. Ned. 11 83	100	95⅞	96⅜	0	−1⅛	12.73
Int. Harvester 12⅜ 85	115	97⅞	98⅜	+0⅛	−0½	13.31
McGraw 13½ 85	75	99¼	99¾	+0⅛	−0⅜	13.59
NorWest Ind. 13⅝ 87	50	99⅜	99⅞	0	−0⅜	13.66
Nova Scotia 10¾ 90	90	89⅛	89⅝	−0⅛	−1⅝	12.69
OKB 10 85	50	91⅛	91⅞	0	−0⅜	12.39
Pembroke Capital 9¾ 87	100	†86½	87	0	−0½	12.62
Pemex 11½ 88	100	91⅞	92⅜	−0⅛	−0⅞	13.21
Quebec Hydro 11½ 92	100	89½	90	0	−1⅛	13.24
Repsol O/S 11½ 88	100	86⅞	87⅜	0	−0⅛	14.32
Roylease Ltd. 11¾ 85	50	96⅛	96⅝	+0⅛	0	12.27
SNCF 12¾ 85	90	99⅝	100⅛	+0⅛	−0⅛	12.33
Swed. Ex. Cred. 12½ 85	40	97⅜	98⅞	0	−1⅛	13.05
US Finance BV 11 90	50	87¼	87¾	+0⅛	−0⅜	13.36
Unilever NV 9¾ 90	100	83⅞	84⅜	0	−0⅛	12.70
World Bank 9¾ 85	200	90½	91	0	−0⅜	12.42
World Bank 10¾ 87	300	89½	90	−0½	−1⅛	12.57

Average price changes... On day 0 on week −0¼

DEUTSCHE MARK STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	Change on week	Yield
Akzo 9 90	125	100	100½	−0½	−1⅛	8.93
Australia 8⅛ 90	250	99⅝	100⅛	0	−0⅜	8.07
BFCE 7¾ 87	100	96	96½	−0⅛	−0⅜	8.63
BFCE 8¾ 95	100	97½	98¼	−0⅛	+0⅛	8.39
Brazil 8 87	150	85⅛	86⅛	−0⅛	−2⅞	11.06
Council of Eur. 7⅞ 89	100	92¾	93¼	0	−1⅛	8.46
Denmark 7⅞ 86	100	87	97⅜	−0⅛	−1⅛	8.49
Denmark 8¾ 92	100	97½	98⅛	−0⅛	−1⅛	8.54
EEC 7⅞ 94	225	94½	95⅛	−0¼	−1⅛	8.63
Finland Rep. of 8 86	150	96⅝	97⅛	0	−1⅛	8.63
Iberduero SA 9 90	100	98⅞	99⅜	0	−0⅜	8.11
Kobe, City of 7¾ 89	150	91⅞	92⅜	0	−1	8.40
Kobe, City of 8 90	100	98½	99	0	−0⅜	8.18
Ot. Bk. Denmark 8½ 90	150	97⅞	98⅜	0	−1	8.76
Norway 7½ 85	250	98½	99	−0¼	−0⅛	7.84
OKB 7½ 89	100	92¾	93¼	−0¼	−1½	8.52
OKB 8¼ 92	150	96⅞	97⅜	−1⅛	−1⅛	8.62
Oslo, City of 8½ 90	80	100⅝	101⅛	0	−0⅜	8.58
Sweden 9¼ 87	200	105⅝	106⅛	−0⅛	−0⅛	8.54
World Bank 8 90	700	96¾	97¼	−0⅛	−1¼	9.45
World Bank 7⅞ 90	250	94⅞	95⅜	−0⅛	−1⅛	8.63
World Bank 10 85	150	107⅛	107⅞	0	−0¼	8.25
World Bank 10 90	200	108⅜	108⅞	+0¼	0	8.65

Average price changes.. On day −0⅛ on week −1

SWISS FRANC STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	Change on week	Yield
Austria Rep. of 5¼ 90	100	97⅞	98½	+0¼	0	5.64
Bergen, City of 4¾ 81	40	†89½	90	0	−2¼	5.07
Bergen, City of 8 90	50	101⅜	101⅞	+0⅜	+0⅛	5.75
BMW Overseas 4¾ 91	100	86	86½	+0⅛	−3¼	6.00
Buhrm'n-Tetterode 7 90	40	104⅛	104⅝	+0½	−0¼	6.35
Caisse Nat. Tels 4¾ 89	100	90½	90⅞	−0⅞	−0½	5.75
Copenhagen 4½ 91	60	84¾	85	+1¼	−1¼	5.46
Council of Eur. 5 89	100	90½	90⅞	+0½	−3½	6.38
Denmark 5¾ 90	80	97⅛	98⅛	−0⅛	−1⅛	5.02
EIB 4¾ 94	100	83⅛	83⅝	+0⅛	−0⅜	6.21
Elec. de France 4½ 89	100	92	92¼	−0⅛	−1¼	5.52
F. G. H. Hypo. Bk. 5 90	50	†101¼	101¾	+0⅜	−0⅛	5.79
Finland Rep. of 5¾ 90	80	93⅛	93⅝	+0⅛	−1⅝	5.57
GZB 4¾ 89	100	87¼	87½	−0⅛	−0⅜	6.10
Hiln 4½ 91	35	†[illegible]	90½	−0¼	−0¼	5.44
Int.-Amer. Dev. 4½ 89	100	90⅜	90⅝	+0⅛	−0⅞	5.90
Int.-Amer. Dev. 7 90	80	†103½	104	−0⅛	−1⅛	6.46
Jutland Tele 5½ 90	50	†95½	96	−1⅞	−2⅝	6.10
Malaysia 5 89	80	87¾	89	+0⅛	−0⅜	5.84
Newaq 5¾ 90	80	99⅜	99⅞	−0½	−0⅛	5.78
Nippon Tel. & T. 4¾ 89	100	89⅜	89⅝	+0½	+0⅞	5.76
Norges Komm. 4½ 91	100	85⅛	85½	+0¼	−1⅞	6.25
OKB 4½ 81	100	84½	84½	−0¼	−2¼	6.39
OKB 8 90	100	102⅜	102⅝	0	−0⅜	5.65
Oslo, City of 4¾ 91	100	85⅜	85⅞	+0¼	−0⅜	5.19
Philips Lamps 5¾ 92	100	97⅜	97⅞	+0⅛	−0⅜	6.51
Sekisui Pre. Hms. 6 90	80	101	101½	−0⅛	−1⅝	5.84
Shikoku El. Pwr. 4¾ 89	100	91⅛	91⅝	−0⅛	−2⅛	5.99
World Bank 4½ 89	150	87	87½	−0⅛	−2⅜	0.27
World Bank 4¾ 91	100	87½	87¾	0	−2⅛	6.20

Average price changes . On day 0 on week −1½

YEN STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	Change on week	Yield
Australia 5.6 83	30	91½	92½	0	−0⅛	8.84
Australia 6½ 88	20	87¾	88⅜	0	−0⅛	8.70
EIB 7⅛ 89	12	96½	97⅜	0	−0⅛	8.28
Finland 5.6 83	10	90⅝	91⅜	0	−0⅛	8.89
Finland 6.8 88	10	87⅞	88⅝	−0¼	−0⅛	9.05
Finland Rep of 8½ 87	15	96⅝	97⅝	0	−0¼	8.95

Average price changes... On day 0 on week −0⅛

OTHER STRAIGHTS	Issued	Bid	Offer	Change on day	Change on week	Yield
Bell Canada 10¾ 86 C$	60	91½	92¼	+0½	−0⅛	12.76
CIBC 13½ 85 C$	50	99	99¾	+0½	−0⅛	13.63
CIBC 11½ 85 C$	80	94½	95	0	0	13.00
Federal Dev. 11½ 90 C$	60	88½	88⅞	+0⅛	−0⅛	13.68
Fst Can Inv. 10 81 C$	50	89⅝	90⅝	+0⅛	−1	13.67
GMAC 12 85 C$	90	†83	84	0	−2⅞	13.92
R. Bk. Canada 10 86 C$	40	91⅞	92	+0½	+1	12.10
Tordom Cpn. 13½ 95 C$	30	98⅞	99⅜	+0⅛	−0⅛	13.07
M. Bk. Dnmk. 9 91 EUA	25	93⅞	95	0	−0⅛	9.3[illegible]
SOFTE 8¾ 89 EUA	40	88	90⅛	0	+0⅛	10.[illegible]
U. Bk. Nrwy 9½ 90 EUA	18	99⅞	100⅜	0	−0⅛	9.5[illegible]
Algemene Bk. 8¾ 84 Fl	75	96⅞	97⅜	0	+0⅛	9.16
Algemene Bk. 10¾ 87 Fl	400	100⅝	100⅞	−0⅛	+0⅛	10.15
Bk. Mees & H. 10 85 Fl	75	101	101½	−0⅛	+0⅛	9.5[illegible]
Heineken NV 10 87 Fl	75	100⅝	100⅞	0	+0⅛	9.[illegible]
Norway 8¾ 84 Fl	100	96½	97	+0⅛	+0⅛	9.7[illegible]
Philips Lamps 8¾ 84 Fl	75	96⅜	96⅞	[illegible]	−0⅛	9.50
Aero Paris 13½ 87 FFr	150	99	100	−0⅛	−0⅛	13.2[illegible]
Air France 11 84 FFr	120	96⅜	97⅜	0	+0⅛	12.7[illegible]
CECA 14¾ 86 FFr	150	102⅛	103⅜	−1⅛	−2	13.29
Finland 11 84 FFr	80	92⅜	93⅛	−0⅛	−1⅛	13.42
Finland 11½ 89 FFr	70	90⅝	91⅜	−0⅞	−2⅛	13.31
Gaz de France 11 84 FFr	150	93	94	−1⅛	−1⅛	13.13
IBM France 11¾ 84 FFr	120	94⅜	95⅜	−0⅛	−0⅛	13.6[illegible]
Renault 9¾ 85 FFr	100	87	88	−0⅛	−0⅛	13.[illegible]
Solvay et Cie 9¾ 87 FFr	125	94⅛	95⅛	+0⅛	+0⅛	13.1[illegible]
Urd. Mex. Sts. 14 85 FFr	150	99¾	100⅝	−0⅛	−0⅛	13.7[illegible]
Beneficial Fin. 14¾ 90 £	20	98⅛	99⅛	+0⅛	−0⅛	14.[illegible]
Citicorp O/S 13¾ 90 £	50	97½	98⅛	+0⅛	−0⅛	13.9[illegible]
EIB 11¾ 91 £	25	88	89⅛	0	−0⅛	13.7[illegible]
Fin. for Ind. 12½ 89 £	30	93⅛	94⅛	0	−0⅛	13.62
Fin. for Ind. 14½ 88 £	20	100⅛	101⅛	0	−0⅛	14.2[illegible]
Gen. Elec. Co. 12½ 89 £	50	95⅛	96⅛	+0⅛	−0⅛	13.7[illegible]
Peugeot SA 14 90 £	23	97¼	98	+0⅛	−0⅛	14.4[illegible]
Rothschild 14⅛ 90 £	12	97⅜	98⅜	0	−0⅛	14.4[illegible]
Swed. Ex. Cr. 15⅝ 85 £	20	103⅛	103⅞	−0⅛	−0⅛	14.09
Banobras 8⅛ 90 KD	7	†94	94⅝	0	+1⅛	9.16
CCCE 8⅛ 91 KD	10	†89⅛	89⅝	0	−4	9.72
Sonatrach 8⅛ 90 KD	12	†92	92⅝	0	−0⅛	9.77
Akzo 9⅛ 87 LuxFr	500	93⅛	94⅛	0	−0⅛	10.57
Euratom 8 87 LuxFr	500	87⅛	88⅛	−0⅛	−0⅛	10.39
Euratom 9¾ 88 LuxFr	500	97⅛	98⅛	0	+0⅛	10.1[illegible]
EIB 9¾ 88 LuxFr	600	97⅛	98⅛	0	+0⅛	10.1[illegible]
Volvo 9¾ 87 LuxFr	500	95⅛	96⅛	0	−0⅛	10.5[illegible]

FLOATING RATE NOTES	Spread	Bid	Offer	C.dte	C.cpn	C.yld
Allied Irish Bk. 5¾ 87	0¼	98⅛	98⅝	2/1	10.44	10.[illegible]
Bank of Ireland 5¾ 89	†0¼	97⅜	98⅛	21/11	11⅛	11.[illegible]
Bank of Tokyo 5¾ 89	†0¼	87	97½	25/10	9⅛	9.[illegible]
Barclays O/S Inv. 5 90	0¼	97⅛	98	13/12	9⅛	9.[illegible]
Bergen Bk. A/S 6 89	0¼	97½	98	29/11	12⅛	12.[illegible]
Bilbao Int. NV 5¾ 90	0¼	95⅞	97⅜	29/11	10.05	10.[illegible]
Citicorp O/S F. 83	§‡0	99⅛	99⅜	23/11	11.44	11.[illegible]
Citicorp O/S F. 84	‡0	99⅛	99⅜	30/9	11.94	12.[illegible]
C. Itoh 5¼ 87	0¼	99⅞	100⅜	18/3	12⅞	12.[illegible]
Co-operative Bk. 5 86	0¼	98	98⅜	15/11	11.44	11.[illegible]
Creditanstalt 5½ 91	‡0¼	98	98⅜	14/12	12.06	12.[illegible]
CNT 5¾ 86	§0¼	100	100⅜	16/10	18⅜	18.[illegible]
GZB 5½ 89	‡0¼	97⅜	98⅛	1/11	8.81	10.[illegible]
Jugobanka B 89	0¼	91¼	93¼	23/11	11⅞	12.[illegible]
Ind. Bank Japan 5¾ 87	0¼	99⅛	99⅜	15/10	18⅜	18.[illegible]
Lloyds Eurofin B 90 £	0¼	96⅛	97⅛	3/1	15⅛	16.[illegible]
LTCB Japan 5¾ 86	0¼	98⅛	99	13/12	9⅜	9.76
LTCB Japan 5⅜ 89	0¼	97⅜	98	7/12	10⅛	10.3[illegible]
Mfrs. Han. O/S 5¾ 94	‡0¼	98	98⅜	30/11	12⅛	12.3[illegible]
Midland Intl. Fin. 5¾ 89	0¼	97⅜	98⅛	20/12	9⅞	9.[illegible]
Midland Intl. Fin. 5¾ 92	0¼	97⅛	98	5/12	10⅞	11.10
Nacional Fin. 6¾ 88	0¼	97⅜	98⅛	25/1	8.69	9.[illegible]
Nat West 5¾ 94	§0¼	98⅜	98⅞	11/10	18⅜	18.[illegible]
Nippon Credit 6½ 86	0¼	97⅛	97⅝	12/1	9.56	9.[illegible]
Nippon Credit 5¾ 87	‡0¼	98½	99	6/11	10⅞	11.[illegible]
Royal Bk. Scot 5¾ 94	§‡0¼	99	99½	11/10	9.31	9.[illegible]
Soc. C. de Bque. 6½ 87	0¼	97⅜	98⅛	3/10	20.06	20.[illegible]
Standard Chart 5¾ 90	0¼	99⅛	99⅝	6/3	12.06	12.[illegible]
Svenska Hndlsbk. 5 87	0¼	99⅛	99⅝	19/1	10	10.[illegible]
Sweden 91	‡0¼	†96⅝	97	18/10	9.58	9.[illegible]
William's & Glyn 5¾ 91	0¼	†98⅞	99⅛	3/3	12.44	17.[illegible]
Bq. S. d'Alg. 4¾ 88 SF	6¾	87	87½	18/12	8⅛	7.[illegible]

Average price changes... On day 0 on week 0

CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Cnv. date	Cnv. price	Bid	Offer	Chg. day	Prem
AGA Aktiebolag 7½ 89	10/79	146	†119	120	0	−3.[illegible]
Ajinomoto 7½ 95	2/80	615.5	128⅛	129⅛	+0⅛	−2.[illegible]
Alco Int. Fin. 9½ 94	1/80	40	96⅛	98	+0⅛	−12.[illegible]
Apache I. Fin. 8¾ 95	12/80	21.12	†142	143	+5⅛	−2.[illegible]
Blocker Energy 8¾ 95	1/81	21.87	113⅛	115	+2⅛	−3.[illegible]
Canon 6¾ 94	8/79	570	125⅛	126⅛	+0⅛	−5.[illegible]
Credit Suisse 4¾ 93	10/79	1278	115⅛	117⅛	+0⅛	−2.[illegible]
Daiei Inc. 6½ 94	11/79	927.3	96⅛	97⅛	+0⅛	22.[illegible]
OOKK 11 90	4/80	326	105	106	+1⅛	16.[illegible]
Dynalectron 9½ 95	8/80	12.22	†111	112	+0⅛	−0.[illegible]
Ensearch Fin. 9½ 94	7/80	30.25	139⅛	140⅛	+1⅛	−1.[illegible]
INA Overseas 8¾ 2000	4/81	42	100⅛	101⅛	+0⅛	[illegible]
Inchcape Ltd. 8 95	1/81	4.55	107⅛	108⅛	+0⅛	[illegible]
Meidensha Elec. 7 94	12/79	210	107⅛	108⅛	+1⅛	[illegible]
MEPC 8¼ 96	2/81	2.47	106⅛	107⅛	+0⅛	[illegible]
Mitsubishi Cp. 6½ 94	10/79	549.1	127⅛	128⅛	+1⅛	[illegible]
Ricoh 6¾ 95	8/80	604	103⅛	104⅛	+2⅛	[illegible]
SBC 6¾ 90	8/80	200	100	101⅛	+0⅛	[illegible]
Toshiba Cpn 7¾ 94	10/79	198	115⅛	116⅛	+3⅛	[illegible]
Union Bk. Switz. 5 89	2/80	121.4	98⅛	99⅛	0	[illegible]
Fujitsu 5 84 DM	7/79	675	†112⅛	114⅛	+4⅛	[illegible]
Sharp Corp. 6½ 88 DM	3/80	535	109⅛	110⅛	+1⅛	2.9[illegible]
Uny Co. 6½ 85 DM	11/79	1071	96	96	+0⅛	17.[illegible]

* No information available—previous day's price.

† Only one market maker supplied a price.

Straight Bonds: The yield is the yield to redemption of the mid-price; the amount issued is in millions of currency units except for Yen bonds where it is in billions. Change on week=Change over price a week earlier.

Floating Rate Notes: Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Coupon shown is minimum. C.dte=Date next coupon becomes effective. Spread=Margin above six-month offered rate (‡ three-month; § above mean rate) for U.S. dollars. C.cpn=The current coupon. C.yld=The current yield.

Convertible Bonds: Denominated in dollars unless otherwise indicated. Chg. day=Change on day. [illegible] First date for conversion into shares. [illegible] Nominal amount of bond per share [illegible] Currency of share at conversion rate [illegible] Prem=Percentage premium of the current [illegible] of acquiring shares via the bond over the [illegible] price of the shares.

هكذا من الأصل

COMPETITION LIKELY TO HIT EARNINGS

Krupp begins to feel slowdown

BY ROGER BOYES IN BONN

KRUPP, the West German steel, shipbuilding and engineering group, pushed up sales and ordars during the first half of 1980 but it is beginning to feol tho offect of the economic slowdown both at bome and abroad. Sharpar International competition is also likely to hit earnings this year.

The Krupp group announced yesterday that it booked orders of DM 7.2bn ($4bn) in the first half, an increase of 8 per cont compared with the same period last year. Domestic orders rose 16 per cent but export orders plunged by 7 per cent.

The iotense competition on international markots were taken *at prices which little* more than cover costs. Inevitably, this will affect profits, though the group gives no details, *saying only* that "negative factors are expected to be stronger in the second half of 1980."

Sales within tho group rose by *9 per cent to DM 6.1hn* for tho first six months, bowever. This was principally because of 20 per cent growth in domestic business to DM 4.1 bn, reflecting the generally healthy state of the German ecooomy in the first half, the strong investment climate and a tendency for many sectors to stockpile.

Howovor, tho German oconomy has entered a slowdown—forecasters are reluctant to call it a recession—and this will probably hava an effect on *domestic sales in the coming* year.

Export sales fell by 14 per cent to DM 1.4bn, although the *sales of foreign subsidiaries* rose by 14 per cent. Krupp's foreign subsidiaries also gave an important boost to tho order *books.*

Krupp is widely diversified. Its main interests now include steel, shipbuilding, plant mannfacture, mechanical engineering *and trading.* However, some of the divisions are stuck in tha middle of atructural crises—steel and shipbuilding—while *others are especially vulnerabla* to political and economic fluctuation abroad, such as the plant *making* division.

The overall effect is that Krupp is hit hard during times of global recession. Krupp'a ordor figures are already beginniog to show this. While ordors for tonnago aod quality steel showed a slight increase io tho first balf, special steels havo been particolarly badly affected by the flaggiog demand from tho motor industry. Meanwhilo, tha cost of ore and fual oil is soaring aod prices are falling. Sales for tbe half rose 7 per cent to DM 3.2bn.

Similarly in shipbuilding, bnsiness is lagging. Although Weser booked three contracts for ship conversions, the prices obtaioed were below those needed to cover costs. Orders in the plantmaking division revealed a more encouraging trend, but they were still below *last year's level.*

The relatively strong Deutsche Mark (against the yen, for example), the fact that its competitors receive government export aid, the high German labour costs and above all tha *economic uncertainty in many* key markets all took their toll.

Even tbe trading division was not immune from world events, losing significant steel exporting ordors from Iran and China. However, these were adequately compensated by increased doliveries to India, Spain and Nigeria and, overall, the division enjoyed an above-average risa in damand, slowing a 40 per cent sales rise to DM 2bn.

First-half setback leads Dutch trader to revise forecast

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

A SHARP decline in operating profits for the first half of 1980 is reported by Deli, the Dutch trading group.

As a result profits for the wholo of the yoar are expected to be lower, *whereas earlier* forecasts from Deli had suggested a slight earnings gain for 1980.

Sales for the aix months rose by 9 per cent to Fl 861m. Net profits showed a gain of 29 per cent at Fl 4m ($2m) but this resulted almost exclusively from a halved tax bill and a fall in profits attribntable to third parties.

Dell mado a small loss on its wood trading activities as rising costs and interest charges put *pressure on margins.* Turnover rose slightly in the Benelux countries despite the building recession but fell sharply in the *Far East and the U.S.*

The tobacco division performed satisfactorily with the company ending its activities in Columbia and *Paraguay.* The tea and rubber sectors performed well but losses were incurred in coffee and oil seeds.

● Hagemeijer, the Dutch based international trading company, returned to the black with a Fl 1.03m ($500,000) net profit in the first half. In the corresponding period of 1979 it posted an adjusted loss of Fl 2.19m.

Hagemeijer said its operating result for the first half amounted to Fl 33.1m, up 16.1 per cent from Fl 28.5m a year earlier. It said that *for comparative purposes,* the 1979 figure has been adjusted by tho elimination of reorganisation costs amounting to Fl 4.7m, which were charged to the provision for reorganisation at the end of fiscal 1979.

Tornover in the first six months of 1980 rose by almost 17 per cent to Fl 938.7m from Fl 804m.

Net profit per share amounted to Fl 0.71 in the first half compared with an adjusted loss of Fl 1.49 a year earlier.

The trading company said that an exchange profit of Fl 500,000 (Fl 1.3m previously) was not included in the results.

Hagemeijer said the 1980 half year figures confirmed its "coofidence in a gradual improvement of the results."

Jacorossi in Malta talks

By Godfrey Grima in Valletta

JACOROSSI, *Italy's* fuel distriboting company which is 50 per cent owned by AGIP, is negotiating tho setting op of a join company with the Malta Government to run tho former NATO refined fuel oil storage depot at Has Saptan

Has Saptan, with a storage capacity of 250,000 cubic tons, is considered to be one of the major underground fuel *stores in the Mediterranean.* It was origioally built by Britaio

Negotiations held this week between seoior Malta Government and Jacorossi officiala were today described as very encooraging and it is now expected that the project could start operating before the ond of tho year.

Tho regular sale of such a substaotial amonnt of fuel is expected to have a positive effect on the Malteso oconomy.

Heavy losses force staff cuts on Spanish airline

BY ROBERT GRAHAM IN MADRID

SPANTAX, Spain's biggest privatoly owned air chartor company, is to make staff cuts and put others oo short timo to offset mounting losses. The cots include pilots, cabin and auxiliary staff.

The company revealed that losses in the first six months of 1980 amounted to Pta 400m ($5.7m). This compares with total 1979 losses of Pta 289m ($4.1m).

The company, founded in 1959, bas built up a fleet of 20 aircraft, both short- and long-haul, including a DC-10. It carries about 2m passengers a year and *contributes* about $100m a year to tho Spanish balance of payments.

The company'a problems stem from increaaingly high overbeads, both personnel and fuel, and compotition.

The compaoy management has denied that it is seeking a form of absorptioo by the stato and says it is determined to contioue as a privata company.

Israeli paper group higher

By L. Daniel in Tel Aviv

AMERICAN-ISRAEL Paper Mills, whose shares are quoted in New York as well as in Tel Aviv, reports that its net profit in fiscal 1979-80 rose I£436m ($7.5m), an increase of 49 per cent. It will pay ahareholders an unchanged cash dividend of 20 per cent and an unchanged stock dividend of 40 per cent.

During the past fiscal year, AIPM acquired two smaller papor *products firms as* a *result* of which its sales in the April to June period of 1980 increased by 184 per cent and its net profit by 180 per cent to I£171m.

AIPM is currently preparing to raise capital on the American Stock Exchange.

Meanwhile, Elscint, Israel's producer of tomographs (*scanners*) and *other* nuclear medical instrumentation, intends to market an additional 600,000 abares in the U.S. The $10 shares currently being traded over the counter in the U.S., have risen in the past six months from $11 to $26 because of the success of the company'a digital nuclear imaging cameras and scanners.

Receivership for Cefisa

BY OUR MADRID CORRESPONDENT

AN INVESTMENT company controlled by one of Spain's best known industrialists of tho Franco era, Sr. Eduardo Barreiros, has applied for temporary receivership. The company, Cefisa, has disclosed to a Madrid court that it has outstanding debts of Pta 22.19bn ($31m) against assets of Pta 2.27m ($32m).

Cefisa is primarily concerned with investment in agribusiness in the Canaries, Castilla and Andalucia. Sr. Barreiros, who established tho company in 1965, is the principal shareholder, and recently put in some Pta 500m ($7m) to aid Cefisa.

Swiss move by landesbank

BY JOHN WICKS IN ZURICH

BAKOLA (SCHWEIZ) is to open in Zurich next month as a fully-owned subsidiary of the German bank Badische Kommunala Landesbank-Girozentrale. This will be the second Swiss operation by the bank, which already owns the finance subsidiary Forfaitierung und Finanz.

The new company is to concentrate on portfolio management and consulting services on behalf of the parent'a German clieots. These are showing increasing interest in the use of Zurich as a Euromarket centre, the bank stated.

Recently there has been increased ioterest in Switzerland on the part of German banks. There are still only few of them with a Zurich base, since the two countries have an nnwritten agreement not to "poach" on the territory of the other.

This, however, applies primarily to domestic business, which is virtually unaffected by such an operation as Bakola.

● Net new money raised on the Swiss capital market rose by a factor of more than three during the first six months of 1980. According to the central bank report, net offtake surged upwards to SwFr 6.35bn from SwFr 2.04bn during the opening half of 1979.

Domestic bonds led the way *with growth of SwFr* 2.1bn followed by foreign bonds which raised an extra SwFr 1.46bn. Equity issues raised an additional SwFr 737m.

Maisons Phenix to expand U.S. links

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

FRENCH housebuilder, Maisons Phenix, and U.S. Home Corporation, the U.S. housiog group in which it has a major shareholding, plan to set up a joint construction subsidiary in tho U.S. suo belt.

Using ...-*housebuilding* techniqoes perfectod by Phenix, the oew company is to be based in Florida tho State which, after Texas, is U.S. Homo's largest singlo revenue earner.

If successful tha co-oporation between the two companies could extend to other areas of the U.S., as well as Latin America, Phenix said. U.S. Home currently operates in 114 cities and 16 States io the U.S.

Phenix, which is Europo's largest bnilder of prefabricatod *single family* bomes, has been pushing hard into foreign construction in the past year or so.

Until 1979 Phenix's forolgn activities wore practically nooexistant. It had two European subsidiaries, one in Spain and one in Belgium. But they only boilt a fow dozen houses annnally and the Spanish unit was "mothballed" last yoar because of poor market cnoditiooa there. Phonix recently set up a West German subsidiary.

The groop is seeking to develop exports of the housing nnits prodoced by its Maison Evolutive affiliate, notably to newly industrialised developing countries in the Middle East and Africa.

The stated aim of M. Gerard Rougeat, the director general, is "to do for housing in France what General Motors did for the automobllo in the U.S."

He recently told shareholders that foreign expansion would continue "eithor by associating *ourselves with successful local* firms, or setting up joint ventures or by exporting our prodncts directly."

Phenix baa expanded its market sharo in France in the lost three years to 5.7 per ceot from 5.1 per cent and ia aiming eventually to attain 10 per cent by doveloping regional sales

Pheoix moved into the U.S. market earller thia year with the purcbaae of 17.5 per cent of U.S. Home for aome $40m. The two companies both operate in tho lower end of their respectivo markets.

Specialising in what it describes as "one for one" *construction. Phenix has a house* selling price that tends to be below the national average in France. U.S. Home builds single-family, detached homes and town houses. Last yoar the company'a homes sold on average at a price some 17 per cent short of the U.S. national mean.

In terms of profits, U.S. Home is a good bit larger than Phenix, roturning almost $41m after tax for 1979. Last year Phenix achieved tha equivalent of $33m, a gain of 16 per cent, but first-half 1980 earnings have apparently dippod sharply.

Phenix expects a substantial improvement in its second half results, however, despite high interest rates. New orders in the first five months were up 40 er cent and this should be reflected in next year's *financial* results.

INTL. COMPANIES & FINANCE

Redcliff project developer sought

By James Forth in Sydney

THE SOUTH Australian Government is seeking a major group to participate in the A$10bn (NS$1.17bn) Redcliff petrochemical project after failing to convince Dow Chemical of the U.S. to commit itself to the venture.

The South Australian Premier, Mr. David Tonkin, travelled to Dow's Michigan headquarters after recent reports that the U.S. group would pull out of th eventure. But Dow, which has been considering the Redcliff project for nine years, said that it was unable to make a decision for about two years. Dow had the exclusive right to develop Redcliff, but this has now been removed by the South Australian Government.

Mr. Tonkin will visit Tokyo to talk to Japanese groups which have expressed interest in replacing Dow in the project. Mitsui is known to be one of the parties, and Sumitomo and Mitsubishi are reportedly also interested.

Mr. Tonkin said from Vancouver yesterday that Dow would continue with its interest, and would be welcomed. The U.S. group would continue its environmental studies to show its good faith.

Dow had told him that it wanted to defer a decision on Redcliff because of the present world situation and the general recession.

EDR issue from Uny Company

By Our Financial Staff

UNY COMPANY, the Japanese retailer, plans to raise around $35m (equivalent to some Y7.5bn through the issue of 9m shares of common stock represented by European Depositary Receipts (EDRs).

The proceeds of the issue will be used to expand operations in Japan, where new stores are to be opened. The date set for the issue is October 15, and the shares are expected to be priced at a discount of roughly 5 per cent on today's price on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Last night the shares closed at Y870 (about $4) each.

The sale will take place in U.S. dollars through an international selling group, the lead manager in which is Nomura Europe and the other members Robert Fleming and Co., Lombard Odier International, and Tokai Kyowa Morgan Grenfell, which will together underwrite the issue. Citibank, N.A., will issue the EDRs, as the depositary, initially in the denomination of 10,000 shares. Uny's shares are quoted on the Tokyo and Nagoya stock exchanges.

Aviation division brings setback at Swire Pacific

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

THE SWIRE PACIFIC group has reported half-year profits less than half last year's mid-term results and less than its portion of the interim profits turned in by one publicly quoted subsidiary, Swire Properties. Earnings for the six months to June 30 came to HK$87.2m (US$17.5m), compared with HK$177.6m last year, although the dividend is maintained at 17 cents a share on the "A" shares and at 3.4 cents a share on the "B" shares.

Behind the results lie rising fuel and wage costs plaguing the subsidiary, Cathay Pacific Airways. Cathay's was hit in the second half of 1979, when oil prices shot up and severe foreign exchange losses arose from the strength in the foreign exchanges of the Japanese yen in which an estimated one-third of its revenues are denominated.

Those factors, combined with a slowdown in the growth of the market, held the group's profits down in 1979 to HK$327.9m, a less than 1 per cent increase from the previous year.

The group will not divulge exact figures on the performance of its divisions, but since Swire Properties alone brought it about HK$92m in the first half, and since the aviation division was cited as the worst performer in that period, there are indications that the airline is now running in the red.

But Mr. John Bremridge, the chairman forecasts that earnings for the full year will still be "appreciably better" than last year. He predicts that Cathay Pacific's performance will improve, and notes that the group will net HK$ 243m of the HK$ 360m that Swire Properties is expected to turn in.

However, Cathay Pacific treats income from aircraft sales as recurrent earnings, not extraordinary gains. It has already sold one Lockheed 1011 TriStar in the second half and hopes to put some of its older Boeing 707s up for sale.

Mr. Bremridge said he expects the two other divisions—industries, and shipping, and offshore services—to do better in the second half than they did in the first. Industries is plagued by sharp increases in sugar costs, recession in its major markets, and the failure of a chemical plant that the group was forced to write off because of seriously defective equipment.

In shipping and offshore services, two large crane ships were used less than expected and Hongkong United Dockyards is still operating in the red, although the losses are less than they were in the second half of 1979.

The entire group had suffered, Mr. Bremridge said, from high interest rates so far this year, and finance charges will continue to be a major cost in all operations.

Mid-term profits advance for HK and China Gas

BY OUR HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT

THE HONG KONG and China Gas Company has posted a 54 per cent increase in interim profits but has warned that higher wage and feedstock costs may force it to levy yet another rate increase on its gas supplies.

After-tax profits for the six months to June 30, came to HK$21.15m (U.S.$4.5m) up from HK$13.76m for the same period last year, and the second interim dividend was set at 21 cents a share, compared with 20 cents.

The company attributed the improvement to a 20 per cent increase in gas sales during the period, a 32 per cent increase in customers served, and interest income from the proceeds of a HK$92m rights issue raised in April to expand the company's plant.

But Mr. R. C. Lee, chairman, noted that the company's wage bill will rise by HK$4m in the second half and that other steeply expanding expenses are cutting into the second half profits.

The company raised its gas rates last year after having held them steady since 1974.

South China Morning Post lifts payout

By Our Hong Kong Correspondent

THE SOUTH CHINA Morning Post, Hong Kong's leading English language daily, has reported profits for the year to June 30 of HK$54.5m (US$11m), up from HK$44m for the previous year. The final dividend is HK$1 a share, making a total of HK$1.40, gainst HK$1.10.

The shares are about 90 per cent held by three principal shareholders: Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; Hutchison Whampoa; and Dow Jones Inc.

Tan Chong doubles earnings

BY WONG SULONG IN KUALA LUMPUR

TAN CHONG, the assembler and distributor of Datsun cars in Malaysia and Singapore, doubled its earnings in the first half to June. Group pre-tax profits rose from 26m ringgit to 57m ringgit (U.S.$27m), on turnover up by 47 per cent to 275m ringgit (U.S.$131m). The after-tax profit was 29m ringgit, compared with 13.5m ringgit.

The sharp gains were made on the strength of the Malaysian car market. Tan Chong sales in Malaysia rose from 129m ringgit to 216m ringgit. Sales at the Singapore end increased by only 1.5m ringgit to 59m ringgit, reflecting measures taken by the Singapore authorities to curb growth in the number of cars on the island.

Tan Chong also said it benefited from a generally stable yen exchange rate during the period.

A surplus of over 82m ringgit was thrown up through the revaluation of the group's assets, out of which 50m ringgit came from the revaluation of land and buildings of its two wholly-owned subsidiaries, and 32m ringgit from other subsidiaries. A one-for-one scrip issue is to be made, for which purpose a sum of 48m ringgit from this surplus is to be capitalised.

Tan Chong is paying an interim dividend of 10 cents per share, with directors promising a final 15 cent dividend on the enlarged capital.

Goodyear Malaysia plans further plant expansion

BY OUR KUALA LUMPUR CORRESPONDENT

GOODYEAR MALAYSIA Berhad is to spend U.S.$25m over the next two years on expansion, including the installation of advanced facilities for radial truck tyre production. This expansion, coming on top of the recently completed U.S.$16m extension to its plant at Shah Alam, outside Kuala Lumpur, brings to U.S.$68m the amount invested on the plant since it first started in 1974.

Mr. I. B. Thomsen, president of Goodyear International, said that this represented the biggest single non-oil American investment in Malaysia.

Goodyear Malaysia is a joint venture, with Goodyear International holding 51 per cent of the equity and Pernas, the Malaysian Government-owned agency, holding 49 per cent.

The recent extension to the plant, which was declared opened by Datuk Hussein Onn, the Prime Minister, yesterday, will double production capacity to 51,000 kilos of rubber products per day. As a matter of policy, Goodyear does not disclose the number of tyres made, or its sales figures. The bulk of Goodyear Malaysia's production is for local consumption.

Shell Refining Malaysia downturn

By Our Kuala Lumpur Correspondent

SHELL REFINING Company (Malaysia) suffered a fall of 12 per cent in its profit for the half-year to June, from 16.5m ringgit to 14.5m ringgit (US$6.9m) on flat sales volume.

The results are in line with those of the other Malaysian refiner, Esso Malaysia Berhad, which recently reported a drop in interim net profit from 12.6m ringgit to 8.1m ringgit. Both companies have blamed the sharp increase in crude oil prices, and their inability to get sufficient compensation from the market.

APPOINTMENTS

L. Pincott to head Stone-Platt

Mr. Leslie R. Pincott is to succeed Sir Geoffrey Hawkings as chairman of STONE-PLATT INDUSTRIES, the loss-making textile machinery group which had to seek bank support earlier this year after a technical default on a loan. He will take over the chair on November 1.

Mr. Pincott was a managing director of Esso Petroleum from 1970 to 1978. He is vice-chairman of Remploy and a director of George Wimpey and other companies. He has already joined the Board of Stone-Platt, which is closing its Oldham factory in December, as a non-executive director. Sir Geoffrey, now in his late 60s, has been chairman since 1974.

Mr. E. G. Smalley, previously chief executive, who became deputy chairman in July 1979, will continue in that position. Mr. R. F. Tavener is chief executive.

★

Mr. George R. Jefferson has been appointed a non-executive director of BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL. Mr. Jefferson is chairman designate of British Telecom.

★

Mr. Derek Alun-Jones has been appointed chairman of the ELECTRONIC CAPITAL EQUIPMENT SECTOR WORKING PARTY of the National Economic Development Council. The working party was formed by the NEDC in May 1980 to concentrate upon the major opportunities and threats facing the capital electronics industry in the face of rapid technical change and intense overseas competition. It succeeds the Radio Communications, Radar and Navigational Aids SWP and the Automation and Instrumentation SWP. Mr. Alun-Jones is managing director of Ferranti.

★

Mrs. R. Banner has been appointed an executive director of WILLIS FABER and DUMAS (UK), not Mr. R. Banner as reported yesterday.

★

Mr. Christopher Morgan has been appointed by the Bureau National du Cognac, the industry's governing body, as director of the COGNAC INFORMATION CENTRE FOR GREAT BRITAIN. The centre will operate from 140 Cromwell Road, London, SW7 and offers a recipe service to the public and the catering trade (Telephone 01-373 6625).

Mr. A. D. Porter has been appointed chairman of F. H. TOMKINS following the retirement of Mr. Gerald G. Garman, who has been with the group for 50 years.

★

NORTHWAY-GESTALT CORPORATION, of Toronto, Canada, has appointed Mr. Robert E. Marcille as president of the company following the resignation of Mr. H. S. Negin. Northway-Gestalt is a subsidiary of Spar Aerospace.

★

Mr. J. M. B. MacMillan has been appointed executive chairman and joint managing director of D. S. CRAWFORD a subsidiary of the United Biscuits group. Mr. J. F. Gibson has also been appointed joint managing director of D. S. Crawford. Mr. MacMillan is a director of UNITED BISCUITS (Holdings) and of United Biscuits (UK) and has been managing director of D. S. Crawford since 1963. Mr. Gibson, a United Biscuits (UK) director, continues as managing director of United Biscuits (Agriculture).

★

Mr. Robert D. Walter has been elected senior vice president, finance, and Mr. Brian D. McAnley, controller, of NORTON SIMON INC.

★

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS HOLDINGS states that Sir Robert Douglas, founder of Douglas Group, who retired as chairman two years ago, is to be created president of the company. On November 24, 1980, the group will have been in existence for 50 years.

★

ANGLO OVERSEAS TRANSPORT, part of P and O Agency Services, is to divide its operations into two separate units, Anglo Overseas and Anglo Specialist Services, from October 1. Mr. Joe Powell, deputy executive chairman of Anglo Overseas Group becomes chief executive Specialist Services. Mr. John Janes, formerly deputy managing director of Anglo Overseas Transport, will be managing director Anglo Overseas.

★

Mr. Daniel Cardon de Lichtbuer has been appointed chairman and Mr. David McWilliam, chief executive, of EURO TRAVELLERS CHEQUE INTERNATIONAL, the central company of the new worldwide organisation based on Thomas Cook's travellers' cheque operations and on other existing European travellers' cheques.

Mr. David McWilliam

Mr. Cardon de Lichtbuer is a member of the executive committee of Banque Bruxelles Lambert. Mr. McWilliam has been seconded from Midland Bank International, where he is an assistant general manager. He is a former managing director of Thomas Cook Bankers.

★

Mr. Ole Haug has been named manager of Crude Oil Tanker Chartering for the GOTAAS-LARSEN group and he will be based in London. He succeeds Mr. Stephen J. Stapleton, vice president of the company, who continues in charge of dry bulk cargo chartering and in charge of the Gotaas-Larsen office in New York.

★

Mr. G. W. K. Fenn-Smith and Mr. P. G. Kirton, members of the executive staff of ADVANCE SERVICES, have been appointed directors of the company.

★

Mr. Martyn W. T. Harrison has taken a major shareholding in MOLNERS, of Sutton Coldfield, and he becomes chairman and managing director. Sue Parkinson continues as sales director and Mr. Bill Parkinson, who founded the company in 1973, remains a director on a consultancy service agreement.

★

Mr. John Simmonds has been appointed managing director of PEARL AND DEAN GROUP. He was previously with Letraset International as general manager of both Letraset UK and its consumer division and latterly as group development manager.

★

BSG INTERNATIONAL has appointed Mr. Peter Johnson as managing director for its main Ford dealership handling the Bromley and Beckenham areas of Kent.

★

The first British trading company to be totally acquired by the Kuwait Investment Office, the PROPRIETORS OF HAY'S WHARF, has appointed a new chairman of the Oils and Chemicals Division, Mr. D. J. W. Browne.

★

WILLIAMS AND GLYN'S BANK has made the following Board appointments from October 1: Mr. W. J. A. Dacombe, assistant chief executive; Mr. H. E. Farley, executive director, domestic banking; Mr. G. E. K. Foster, executive director responsible for related services; and Mr. A. G. Pollard, executive director, international banking.

★

Mr. Brian L. Mower has been appointed head of information for the DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT following the retirement of Mr. Dick Seaman. Mr. Mower is at present deputy head of information at the Treasury. He will take up his new appointment shortly.

Mr. Leslie Pincott

★

Mr. J. B. Knights, general manager of the ROYAL LONDON MUTUAL INSURANCE SOCIETY, has been appointed a director. Mr. L. B. Cooke has joined the society as a non-executive director and consultant. Mr. Cooke is a former director and general manager of National Westminster Bank.

★

ALCAN ALUMINIUM (UK) has made the following appointments: Mr. F. J. Davies to head the extrusion division and he will also become chief executive officer of Alcan Extrusions. Within the extrusion division, Mr. A. E. Petersen will be commercial director and Mr. R. Welsh, general manager extrusion product companies and managing director, of Alcan Windows. Mr. J. P. Kembery is now managing director of Alcan Metal Centres, replacing Mr. M. L. Bell, who is moving to a senior position in Montreal. Mr. J. B. T. Wilson takes over the position of managing director; Alcan Wire.

BANK RETURN

BANKING DEPARTMENT

	Wednesday September 24 1980	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) for week
Liabilities	£	£
Capital	14,553,000	—
Public Deposits	36,906,994	— 1,701,348
Bankers Deposits	582,008,736	— 94,071,361
Reserve & other Accounts	640,974,598	+ 8,624,434
	1,273,445,324	— 87,148,275
ASSETS		
Government Securities	301,299,064	— 232,730,000
Advances & Other Accounts	251,401,373	+ 1,671,405
Premises Equipment & Other Secs.	699,293,621	+ 151,493,126
Notes	21,174,319	— 7,572,461
Coin	876,947	— 10,385
	1,273,445,324	— 87,148,275

ISSUE DEPARTMENT

	£	£
Liabilities		
Notes Issued	10,150,000,000	— 25,000,000
In Circulation	10,128,825,681	— 17,427,519
In Banking Department	21,174,319	— 7,572,481
ASSETS		
Government Debt	11,015,100	—
Other Government Securities	8,860,056,772	+ 283,615,680
Other Securities	1,278,928,128	— 308,615,680
	10,150,000,000	— 25,000,000

WORLD VALUE OF THE DOLLAR

Bank of America NT & SA, Economics Department, London

The table below gives the rates of exchange for the U.S. dollar against various currencies as of Wednesday, September 24, 1980. The Exchange rates listed are middle rates between buying and selling rates as quoted between banks, unless otherwise indicated. All currencies are quoted in foreign currency units per one U.S. dollar except in certain specified areas. All rates quoted are indicative. They are not based on, and are not intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions.

Bank of America NT and SA does not undertake to trade in all listed foreign currencies, and neither Bank of America NT and SA nor the Financial Times assume responsibility for errors.

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Afghanistan	Afghani (O)	44.00
Albania	Lek	4.202
Algeria	Dinar	3.8386
Andorra	French Franc	4.1816
	Spanish Peseta	73.505
Angola	Kwanza	27.627
Antigua	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
Argentina	Argentine Peso	1916.50
Australia	Australian $	0.8569
Austria	Schilling	12.76
Azores	Portug. Escudo	50.03
Bahamas	Bahamian $	1.00
Bahrain	Dinar	0.3778
Balearic Isles	Spanish Peseta	73.505
Bangladesh	Taka	14.8065
Barbados	Barbados $	2.01
Belgium	B. Franc (C)	28.857
	B. Franc (F)	29.05
Belize	Belize $	2.00
Benin	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Bermuda	Bda $	1.00
Bhutan	Indian Rupee	7.72
Bolivia	Bolivian Peso	25.00
Botswana	Pula	0.7701
Brazil	Cruzeiro	57.49
Brit. Virgin Isles	U.S. $	1.00
Brunei	Brunei $	2.115
Bulgaria	Lev	0.879
Burma	Kyat	6.7271
Burundi	Burundi Franc	90.00
Cameroun Republic	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Canada	Canadian $	1.1659
Canary Islands	Spanish Peseta	73.505
Cape Verde Isle	Cape V. Escudo	36.51
Cayman Islands	Cay. Is. $	0.835
Cent. Af. Rep.	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Chad	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Chile	Chilean Peso (D)	39.00
China	Renminbi Yuan	1.4987
Colombia	Col. Peso (O)	48.56
Comoros Islands	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Congo (Brazzaville)	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Costa Rica	Colon	8.57
Cuba	Cuban Peso	0.707
Cyprus	Cyprus Pound	0.3513
Czechoslovakia	Koruna (D)	5.50
Dem. Rep. S'o Tome & Principe	S. Tome Dobra	38.3844
Denmark	Danish Krone	5.685
Djibouti Rp. of	Djibouti Franc	172.658
Dominica	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
Dominican Repub.	Domin'can Peso	1.00
Ecuador	Sucre	28.10
Egypt	Pound (3)	0.69
El Salvador	Colon	2.50
Equatorial Guinea	Ekuele	73.505
Ethiopia	Birr (D)	2.0855
Faroe Islands	Danish Krone	5.685
Falkland Islands	Falkland Is. £*	2.4036
Fiji Islands	Fiji $	0.7986
Finland	Markka	3.6565
France	French Franc	4.1815
French C'ty in Af.	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
French Guiana	Local Franc	4.1815
French Pacific Is.	C.F.P. Franc	78.8074
Gabon	C.F.A. Franc	209.076
Gambia	Dalasi	1.5648
Germany (East)	Ostmark (O)	1.8015
Germany (West)	Deutschemark	1.8015
Ghana	Cedi	2.75
Gibraltar	Pound*	2.4036
Gilbert Is	Kiribati	0.8569
Greece	Drachma	43.080

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Greenland	Danish Krone	5.685
Grenada	E. Caribbean $	2.7026
Guadaloupe	Local Franc	4.1816
Guam	U.S. $	1.00
Guatemala	Quetzal	1.00
Guinea Bissau	Peso	33.4345
Guinea Republic	Syli	18.7577
Guyana	Guyanese $	2.5499
Haiti	Gourde	5.00
Honduras Repub.	Lempira	2.00
Hong Kong	H.K. $	4.9805
Hungary	Forint (O)	32.6022
Iceland	I. Krona	612.50
India	Ind. Rupee	7.72
Indonesia	Rupiah	628.00
Iran	Rial	70.00
Iraq	Iraq Dinar	0.2952
Irish Republic	Irish Punt*	2.088
Israel	Israeli Pound (4)	56.116
Italy	Lira	856.76
Ivory Coast	C.F.A. Franc	209.876
Jamaica	Jamaican Dollar	1.7855
Japan	Yen	216.05
Jordan	Jordan Dinar	0.2986
Kampuchea	Riel	n.a.
Kenya	Kenya Shilling	7.3404
Korea (Nth)	Won	8.84
Korea (Sth)	Won	622.10
Kuwait	Kuwait Dinar	0.2661
Lao P'ple D. Rep.	Kip of Lib.	16.00
Lebanon	Lebanese Pound	3.4437
Lesotho	Loti	0.7062
Liberia	Liberian $	1.00
Libya	Libyan Dinar	0.2961
Liechtenstein	Swiss Franc	1.649
Luxembourg	Lux Franc	28.857
Macao	Pataca	5.305
Madagascar D. R.	MG Franc	209.075
Madeira	Portuguese Escudo	50.03
Malawi	Kwacha	0.7951
Malaysia	Ringgit	2.132
Maldive Islands	Mal Rupee	3.96
Mali Republic	Mali Franc	418.15
Malta	Maltese Pound	0.3387
Martinique	Local Franc	4.1815
Mauritania	Ouguiya	61.816
Mauritius	M. Rupee	7.5988
Mexico	Mexican Peso	22.99
Miquelon	French Franc	4.1815
Monaco	French Franc	4.1815
Mongolia	Tugrik (O)	3.3555
Montserrat	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
Morocco	Dirham	3.95
Mozambique	Moz. Escudo	28.8909
Namibia	Rand	0.7532
Nauru Is.	Aust. $	0.8569
Nepal	Nepalese Rupee	12.00
Netherlands	Dutch Guilder	1.9575
Netherland Antilles	Antillian Guild	1.80
New Zealand	NZ $	1.0204
Nicaragua	Cordoba	10.00
Niger Republic	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Nigeria	Naira (O)	0.5443
Norway	Norw'g Krone	4.857
Oman, Sultanate of	Rial Omani	0.3456
Pakistan	Pkst. Rupee	9.91
Panama	Balboa	1.00

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	VALUE OF DOLLAR
Papua N.G.	Kina	0.6553
Paraguay	Guarani	127.50
Peoples D. Repub. of Yemen	S. Yemen Dinar	0.3416
Peru	Sol	301.16
Philippines	Ph. Peso	7.6745
Pitcairn Islands	NZ $	1.0204
Poland	Zloty (O)	31.00
Portugal	Port. Escudo	50.03
Port Timor	Timor Escudo	n.a.
Puerto Rico	U.S. $	1.00
Qatar	Qatar Ryal	3.678
Reunion Ile de la	French Franc	4.1816
Romania	Leu	4.47
Rwanda	Rwanda Franc	92.84
St. Christopher	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
St. Helena	Pound*	2.4036
St. Lucia	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
St. Pierre	Fr Franc	4.1815
St. Vincent	E. Caribbean $	2.7025
Samoa American	U.S. $	1.00
San Marino	Italian Lira	855.75
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal	3.3188
Senegal	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Seychelles	S. Rupee	6.5459
Sierra Leone	Leone	0.8321
Singapore	Singapore $	2.115
Solomon Islands	S.I. $	0.8562
Somali Republic	Som. Shilling	6.0241
South Africa	Rand	0.7532
Spain	Peseta	73.505
Spanish Ports in North Africa	Sp. Peseta	73.505
Sri Lanka	S. L. Rupee	16.92
Sudan Republic	Pound (2)	0.50
Sudan Republic	Pound (1)	0.80
Surinam	S. Guilder	1.80
Swaziland	Lilangeni	0.7552
Sweden	S. Krona	4.154
Switzerland	Swiss Franc	1.649
Syria	Syria Pound	3.9262
Taiwan	New Taiwan (O)	36.00
Tanzania	Tan Shilling	8.1898
Thailand	Baht	20.50
Togo Republic	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Tonga Islands	Pa'anga	0.8562
Trinidad & Tob	Trin. & Tob. $	2.4066
Tunisia	Tunisian Dinar	0.3885
Turkey	Lira	80.00
Turks & Caicos	U.S. $	1.00
Tuvalu	Australian $	0.8562
Uganda	Ug. Shilling	7.3404
United Arab Emir.	UAE Dirham	3.6887
United Kingdom	£ Sterling*	2.4036
Upper Volta	C.F.A. Franc	209.075
Uruguay	Urug. Peso	2.38
U.S.S.R.	Rouble	0.643
V nuatu	Aust. $	0.8562
Vanuatu*	FNN (5)	67.0743
Vatican	Italian Lira	855.75
Venezuela	Bolivar	4.2967
Vietnam N.	Dong (O)	2.18
Virgin Islands U.S.	U.S. $	1.00
Western Samoa	Samoan Tala	0.8795
Yemen	Rial	4.57
Yugoslavia	New Y. Dinar	27.56
Zaire Republic	Zaire Zaire	1.9877
Zambia	Kwacha	0.7783
Zimbabwe	Zim $	0.6935

n.a. Not available. * U.S. dollars per National Currency unit. (D) Official rate. (C) Commercial rate. (F) Financial rate. (1) Sudan—Official rate for specified exports and imports. (2) Sudan—Official rate for all transactions except specified exports and imports. (3) Egypt—A different rate applies to certain transactions with non-IMF countries. (4) Israeli Government are changing their currency to Shekels. However dealers are currently quoting in pounds. (5) New Nabrides Independence 30/7/80 now named Vanuatu.

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

£ and $ quiet

Trading in currency markets lost momentum yesterday as the lack of fresh developments over the Iran/Iraq conflict increased market uncertainty. Operators were unwilling to commit themselves one way or the other and, with the end of the month approaching, most major currencies drifted in a rather trendless market.

Sterling's trade-weighted index showed a slight fall to 76.1 from 76.3, having stood at 76.3 at noon and in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at $2.4020-2.4030, and eased to around $2.4000 at noon. During the afternoon it rose to $2.4020-2.4030, but started to lose ground towards the close, as the dollar showed a late improvement. It closed at $2.3985-$2.3995, a fall of just five points from Wednesday.

The dollar closed slightly higher on the day, with a late rally out of New York pushing it just above the day's lows at the end of the day. Against the D-mark it finished at DM 1.7980 compared with DM 1.7945 on Wednesday, and SwFr 1.6440 in terms of the Swiss franc from SwFr 1.6430. It was also slightly firmed against the Japanese yen at Y214.70 from Y214.50 on Wednesday. According to Bank of England figures, the dollar's trade-weighted index eased slightly to 83.8 from 83.9, which did not reflect the dollar's late improvement.

D-MARK—One of the weaker members of the European Monetary System, and unsettled just recently by Middle East unrest, falling to a four-year low against sterling, and its lowest level against the dollar since May. The D-mark was unchanged on balance at yesterday's fixing in Frankfurt, losing ground to the French franc, Dutch guilder and Swiss franc, but improving in terms of the U.S. dollar and sterling. The French franc rose to DM 43.07 per FFr 100 from DM 43.03, the Dutch guilder to DM 92.06 per Fl 100 from DM 91.95, and the Swiss franc to DM 1.0939 from DM 1.0917. On the other hand sterling slipped to DM 4.3220 compared with DM 4.3300 on Wednesday, and the dollar was lower at DM 1.8002 against DM 1.8066. Trading was generally quiet, with dealers even more reluctant than usual to take on new positions ahead of the month end, in view of current Middle East uncertainty.

DANISH KRONE—Remaining quite firm around the middle of the EMS, following two devaluations in 1979—The Danish krone was mostly firmer at yesterday's fixing in Copenhagen, with sterling lower at DKr 13.3755, compared with DKr 13.4370, and the U.S. dollar slipping to DKr 5.5740 from DKr 5.5885. The D-Mark slipped to DKr 3.0970 from DKr 3.0980. Dealers pointed out that pressure on the Danish krone, seen in the past, seems to have disappeared for the time being, since the D-mark is itself quite weak within the EMS. But market sources were quick to point out that any sustained rise by the D-mark could lead to the possibility of another devaluation in the krone.

JAPANESE YEN—Still firmer than a month ago having been helped by the past weakness of the dollar, and a fundamental improvement in the Japanese economy. Just recently however, fears over disruption of oil Middle East have seen the yen weaken—The yen was firmer against the dollar in Tokyo yesterday, with the U.S. unit closing at Y215.65, compared with Y218.20 on Wednesday. It opened at Y216.20 and traded within a fairly narrow range as the market adopted a more cautious attitude over events in the Iran/Iraq conflict.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept. 25	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	2.3985-2.4045	2.3985-2.3995	0.95-0.85c pm	4.50	1.85-1.75 pm	3.00
Canada	2.7920-2.8085	2.7980-2.7990	1.40-1.30c pm	5.79	3.00-2.90 pm	4.22
Nethlnd.	4.67½-4.71½	4.68½-4.69½	2½-1½c pm	5.76	6½-5½ pm	5.01
Belgium	69.00-69.50	69.00-69.10	32-22c pm	4.69	58-48 pm	3.07
Denmark	13.34-13.41	13.34½-13.35½	½-1½ore dis	—0.90	5-6½ dis	—1.70
Ireland	1.1455-1.1500	1.1460-1.1470	0.20-0.11p pm	1.62	0.39-0.30 pm	1.20
W. Ger.	4.30½-4.34	4.31-4.32	3½-2½pf pm	7.30	7½-6½ pm	6.26
Portugal	119.80-120.40	119.90-120.10	2-40c dis	—2.10	4-114 dis	—1.97
Spain	176.35-176.75	176.40-176.50	100-150c dis	—8.50	305-385 dis	—7.82
Italy	2051-2068	2062½-2063½	8½-10½lire dis	—5.56	40½-43½ dis	—8.18
Norway	11.64½-11.68½	11.65-11.66	3½-2ore pm	2.77	8-6½ pm	2.43
France	10.00-10.06	10.00½-10.01½	4½-3½c pm	4.49	8¼-7¼ pm	3.10
Sweden	9.95½-9.99½	9.96-9.97	1-1½ore dis	—1.65	4½-5½ dis	—2.06
Japan	510-520	514½-515½	1.50-1.05y pm	2.97	3.55-3.10 pm	2.58
Austria	30.48-30.68	30.50-30.56	13-10gro pm	4.52	26-21 pm	3.08
Switz.	3.93½-3.97½	3.94-3.95	3½-2½c pm	10.27	9½-8½ pm	9.36

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 69.35-69.45. Six-month forward dollar 2.32-2.22c pm. 12-month 2.85-2.75c pm.

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept. 25	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
UK†	2.3985-2.4045	2.3985-2.3995	0.95-0.85c pm	4.50	1.85-1.75 pm	3.00
Ireland†	2.0855-2.0940	2.0910-2.0940	0.55-0.45c pm	2.87	1.05-0.95 pm	1.91
Canada	1.1634-1.1669	1.1640-1.1643	0.10-0.06c pm	0.82	0.32-0.27 pm	1.01
Nethlnd.	1.9510-1.9560	1.9510-1.9520	0.33-0.23c pm	1.72	1.14-1.04 pm	2.23
Belgium	28.77-28.85	28.77-28.79	1.2-0.2c pm	9.03	2 pm-½ dis	0.10
Denmark	5.5570-5.5730	5.5585-5.5600	2.15-2.65ore dis	—5.10	6.25-6.75dis	—4.68
W. Ger.	1.7950-1.8020	1.7975-1.7985	0.42-0.38pf pm	2.67	1.53-1.48 pm	3.35
Portugal	49.90-50.10	49.95-50.05	20-35c dis	—6.60	40-85 dis	—5.00
Spain	73.55-73.67	73.57-73.62	65-85c dis	—12.23	180-210dis	—10.60
Italy	855.70-856.40	855.85-856.15	8½-7½lire dis	—9.81	23-25 dis	—11.21
Norway	4.8565-4.8625	4.8600-4.8615	0.45-0.95ore dis	—1.73	8.50-1.00dis	—0.62
France	4.1685-4.1810	4.1685-4.1700	0.05c pm-0.05 dis	—	0.25-0.15 pm	0.19
Sweden	4.1510-4.1690	4.1520-4.1635	2.10-2.30ore dis	—6.36	5.10-5.30dis	—5.01
Japan	213.50-215.70	214.65-214.75	0.15-0.30y dis	—1.26	0.10-0.25dis	—0.33
Austria	12.72-12.74½	12.72-12.73	0.30gro pm-0.30 dis	—	1½ pm-½ dis	0.12
Switz.	1.6385-1.6500	1.6435-1.6445	0.85-0.80c pm	6.02	2.65-2.60 pm	6.39

† UK and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the individual currency.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Sept. 24	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes%
Sterling	76.1	—29.8
U.S. dollar	83.8	—9.7
Canadian dollar	80.6	—17.3
Austrian schilling	165.3	+24.6
Belgian franc	115.1	+13.3
Danish kroner	106.2	—5.1
Deutsche mark	153.6	+43.3
Swiss franc	197.7	+80.0
Guilder	126.1	+20.1
French franc	100.8	—6.0
Lira	52.4	—51.8
Yen	133.2	+30.9

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971 (Bank of England Index=100).

CURRENCY RATES

Sept. 24	Bank rate %	Special Drawing Rights	European Currency Unit
Sterling	16	0.84 6998	0.584486
U.S. $	10	1.31482	1.40562
Canadian $	11.03	1.53256	1.63889
Austria Sch.	6¾	16.7653	17.9085
Belgium F	18	37.2188	40.6490
Danish K	12	7.34527	7.84937
D'mark	7½	2.36746	2.53899
Guilder	8½	2.57310	2.75656
French Fr.	9½	5.49595	5.88881
Lira	15	1125.16	1203.27
Yen	8.25	283.344	304.861
Norwgn. Kr.	2	6.39791	6.88797
Spanish Pts.	8	96.6524	103.388
Swedish Kr.	10	5.47716	5.84837
Swiss Fr.	6	2.16814	2.32388

OTHER CURRENCIES

Sept. 25	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso	4625-4646	1926-1953	Austria	30.40-30.70
Australia Dollar	2.0460-2.0500	0.8535-0.8540	Belgium	68.85-69.60
Brazil Cruzeiro	137.61-138.61	57.39-57.59	Denmark	13.39-13.40
Finland Markka	7.95-7.98	3.6495-3.6505	France	9.98-10.06
Greek Drachma	103.458-104.812	42.75-42.90	Germany	4.30-4.34
Hong Kong Dollar	11.94-11.96	4.9780-4.9800	Italy	2045-2150
Iran Rial	n.a.	n.a.	Japan	513-518
Kuwait Dinar (KD)	0.639-0.645	0.2661-0.2662	Netherlands	4.67½-4.71½
Luxembourg Frc.	69.00-69.10	28.77-28.79	Norway	11.62-11.72
Malaysia Dollar	5.0980-5.1020	2.1230-2.1250	Portugal	116-127
New Zealand Dlr.	2.4420-2.4470	1.0185-1.0195	Spain	171¼-181¼
Saudi Arab. Riyal	7.93-7.99	3.3185-3.3205	Sweden	9.96-10.06
Singapore Dollar	5.0430-5.0530	2.1025-2.1045	Switzerland	3.94-3.97
Sth. African Rand	1.8050-1.8065	0.7525-0.7530	United States	2.399-2.409
U.A.E. Dirham	8.82-8.88	3.6880-3.6900	Yugoslavia	71¼-74½

Rate given for Argentina is free rate.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU September 25	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc	39.7897	40.6087	+2.06	+0.74	±1.53
Danish Krona	7.72336	7.83560	+1.45	+0.13	±1.64
German D-Mark	2.48208	2.53336	+2.07	+0.75	±1.125
French Franc	5.84700	5.88340	+0.62	—0.70	±1.3657
Dutch Guilder	2.74362	2.75409	+0.38	—0.94	±1.512
Irish Punt	0.668201	0.673613	+0.81	—0.51	±1.668
Italian Lira	1157.79	1205.86	+4.15	+2.89	±4.06

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Sept. 25	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	2.399	4.316	515.0	10.01	3.946	4.688	2055.	2.799	69.06
U.S. Dollar	0.417	1.	1.799	214.7	4.173	1.644	1.954	855.8	1.167	28.78
Deutschemark	0.232	0.556	1.	119.4	2.320	0.914	1.086	475.8	0.649	16.00
Japanese Yen 1,000	1.942	4.658	8.372	1000.	19.44	7.660	9.102	3986.	5.434	134.1
French Franc 10	0.999	2.397	4.311	514.5	10	3.941	4.683	2051.	2.796	68.98
Swiss Franc	0.253	0.608	1.094	130.5	2.537	1.	1.188	520.4	0.709	17.50
Dutch Guilder	0.213	0.512	0.921	109.9	2.136	0.848	1.	438.0	0.597	14.73
Italian Lira, 1,000	0.487	1.169	2.102	250.9	4.876	1.922	2.283	1000.	1.363	33.62
Canadian Dollar	0.357	0.857	1.542	184.0	3.577	1.410	1.675	733.6	1.	24.67
Belgian Franc 100	1.448	3.474	6.249	745.8	14.50	5.716	6.789	2973.	4.053	100.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING (11.00 a.m. SEPTEMBER 25)

3 months U.S. dollars		6 months U.S. dollars	
bid 12 1/4	offer 12 3/8	bid 12 3/4	offer 12 7/8

The fixing rates are the arithmetic means, rounded to the nearest one-sixteenth, of the bid and offered rates for $10m quoted by the market to five reference banks at 11 am each working day. The banks are National Westminster Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Deutsche Bank, Banque Nationale de Paris, and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES (Market Closing Rates)

Sept. 25	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian $	Japanese Yen
†Short term	16-16¼	11-11¼	8-9	9-9½	⅛-¼	8¾-8⅞	11½-11¾	14-17	51¾-31⅞	16½-14½
7 days' notice	16⅛-16⅝	11¼-11½	8-97	8¼-8½	7-7½	8½-8⅞	11½-11¾	19-22	11¼-11⅜	15¾-16¼
Month	16⅛-16⁷⁄₁₆	11½-11¾	10¼-10⅝	9⅛-8⅞	6½-5⅝	8⅞-8⅞	11⅞-12⅛	22½-24	11⅝-11¾	16-13¼
Three months	15⅞-15⁷⁄₁₆	11¾-12½	10¼-11⅝	10-10½	5¾-5⅞	8¾-8⅞	12-12¼	24-25½	12⅛-12⅜	12⅜-12⅝
Six months	14⅞-15⅛	12¾-13	11⅞-12¼	10-10½	5⅞-6⅛	8⅜-8⅝	12⅝-12⅝	25-26¼	12⅝-12⅜	11¼-11½
One Year	14⅛-14⅜	12⅝-12⅞	12⅝-12¾	10⅛-10⅜	5¾-5⅞	8⅜-8½	12⅝-12⅞	23-24½	12⅝-12¾	10⅛-10⅜

Long-term Eurodollar two years 12⅞-12⅞ per cent; three years 12⅞-13 per cent; four years 12⅞-13 per cent; five years 12⅞-13 per cent nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two-days' notice. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore.

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 11.45-11.55 per cent; three-months 12.00-12.10 per cent; six months 12.30-12.40 per cent; one-year 12.10-12.30 per cent.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKET

European rates mixed

Interest rates showed mixed changes in Europe yesterday. In Brussels the authorities reduced the rate on one-month Treasury bills to 11.85 per cent from 12.1 per cent. Two and three-month bills remain at 12.10 per cent and 12.35 per cent respectively. There had been some speculation earlier in the month that the authorities would cut the discount rate, but given the current weakness of the Belgian franc, and the latest Middle East conflict, such a move would seem inappropriate at the moment, according to market sources.

In Amsterdam call money was quoted at 9.25-9.375 per cent, slightly up from Wednesday's level of 9.0-9.25 per cent. Longer term rates were firmer where changed. Dealers were divided as to how the authorities would react to the payment of corporate taxes next week. The drain on liquidity should see rates firmer, but in view of the current strength of the Dutch guilder—at present the firmest currency within the European Monetary System — the authorities may decide to keep down rates by injecting additional liquidity into the market.

In Rome a strong demand for three-month Treasury bills at the latest monthly auction, saw yields fall to 14.12 per cent from 15.03 per cent previously. A total of L9.5 trillion (million million) of bills came on auction in September, replacing maturities of L8.5 trillion.

UK MONEY MARKET

Adequate supply

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 16 per cent (from July 3, 1980)

Day to day credit remained in good supply in the London money market yesterday, and the authorities gave no assistance to the market. There was only one factor affecting the market, namely balances brought forward by banks a moderate way above target. Trading was extremely quiet, with discount houses paying around 15¼ per cent for secured call loans at the start, and as little as 14 per cent later in the day.

In the inter-bank overnight loans opened at 15⅝-15⅞ per cent and eased to 15¼-15½ per cent before coming back to 15⅝-15⅞.

MONEY RATES

NEW YORK	
Prime Rate	12½
Fed Funds	11⅞-11¾
Treasury Bills (13-week)	10.14
Treasury Bills (26-week)	10.92
GERMANY	
Discount Rate	7.50
Overnight Rate	[illegible]
One month	[illegible]
Three months	[illegible]
Six months	[illegible]
FRANCE	
Discount Rate	[illegible]
Overnight Rate	11.25
One month	11.425
Three months	[illegible]
Six months	11.875
JAPAN	
Discount Rate	8.25
Call (Unconditional)	11.50
Bills Discount (three-month)	11.4875

GOLD

Weaker trend

Gold lost $13 an ounce in the London bullion market yesterday to close at $694-697. It opened at $705-708, which was the high for the day, and started to fall as long positions were liquidated on the lack of fresh news on the Iran/Iraq conflict. Trading was nervous and at times extremely hectic and confused, with the unwinding of long positions encouraging further professional liquidation during the day.

In Paris the 12½ kilo bar was fixed at FFr 93,000 per kilo ($692.25 per ounce) compared with FFr 94,200 ($701.89) in the morning, and FFr 94,500 ($703.17) on Wednesday afternoon.

In Frankfurt the 12½ kilo bar was fixed at DM 40,560 per kilo ($706.07 per ounce) against DM 41,255 ($711.86) previously, and closed at $697-700 per ounce compared with $710-713 on Wednesday.

In Zurich gold finished at $697-700 from $709-712 previously.

	Sept. 25		Sept. 24	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$694-697	(£289¼-290½)	$707-710	(£294½-295½)
Opening	$705-708	(£293¾-295)	$707-710	(£294-295½)
Morning fixing	$706	(£293.589)	$711.75	(£296.575)
Afternoon fixing	$697.75	(£290.342)	$710.50	(£295.426)
Gold Coins				
Krugerrand	$716-717	(£298-300)	$728-731	(£303¼-304¾)
½ Krugerrand	$367½-370½	(£153-156)	$375-380	(£155¼-158¼)
¼ Krugerrand	$187-190	(£77-80)	$191-196	(£79½-82½)
1/10 Krugerrand	$76-78½	(£31¼-32¾)	$78-81	(£32½-34½)
Mapleleaf	$709-713	(£295½-297½)	$722½-726½	(£301-303)
New Sovereigns	$176¼-177¼	(£73½-74½)	$179¾-180¾	(£74¾-75¾)
King Sovs	$126-197	(£81-83)	$201-203	(£83¾-84¾)
Victoria Sovs	$195-197	(£81-83)	$201-203	(£83¾-84¾)
French 20s	$168-170		$170½-173	
50 pesos Mexico	$860-864		$874-878	
100 Cor. Austria	$688-692		$693-696	
$20 Eagles	$790-795		$799-802	

LONDON MONEY RATES

Sept. 25 1980	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury Bills ♦	Eligible Bank Bills ♦	Fine Trade Bills ♦
Overnight	—	14½-16½	—	—	—	15-16¼	14-16½	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	16¼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice	—	15-10½	16¼-16⅛	—	15⅝	16⅛-15⅞	15¼-15⅛	—	—	—
One month	10¼-10⅛	16⅛-16⅛	16¼-16⅝	17¼-17⅛	16¼	16⅛-16¼	15½-16⅛	14⅞	16⅛-10⅛	16⅞
Two months	16⅛-16⅞	15⅞-16	—	17-17¼	16¼	—	14⅞-15	14⅞	15⅞	16⅛
Three months	16⅛-15⅛	15⅞-15⅞	16⅛-15⅞	15⅞-16⅛	15⅞	16⅛-16¼	14¼-14⅛	14⅞	15¼-15⅛	16¼
Six months	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nine months	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
One year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Two years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 13½-13¾ per cent; four years 13¼-13½ per cent; five years 13¼-13½ per cent. Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 14⅝ per cent; four-month trade bills 15¼ per cent.

Approximate selling rate for one-month Treasury bills 14⅞-14⅝ per cent; two-month 14⅞-14¾ per cent; three-month 14⅝-14½ per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills 15⅝-16 per cent; two-month 16 per cent; three-month 15⅝ per cent; one-month trade bills 16⅝ per cent; two-months 16½ per cent; three-months 16⅝ per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 16½ per cent from September 1, 1980. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 14 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 16 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 14.1310 per cent.

APPOINTMENTS

TRAVEL

COMPANY NOTICES

GOLD FIELDS GROUP

NOTICE RE CLOSING OF REGISTERS OF MEMBERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the REGISTERS OF MEMBERS of the undermentioned companies will be CLOSED for the purpose of the Annual General Meetings as follows:—

Name of Company (Each Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)	Register of Members closed (both days inclusive)
New Witwatersrand Gold Exploration Company, Limited.	6 October to 13 October 1980
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	7 October to 14 October 1980
Doornfontein Gold Mining Company Limited	8 October to 15 October 1980
Kloof Gold Mining Company Limited	8 October to 15 October 1980
Libanon Gold Mining Company Limited	8 October to 15 October 1980
Venterspost Gold Mining Company Limited	8 October to 15 October 1980
West Driefontein Gold Mining Company Limited.	8 October to 15 October 1980
Gold Fields of South Africa Limited	10 October to 17 October 1980

By Order of the Boards
C. E. WENNER
London Secretary

London Office:
49, Moorgate,
London, EC2R 6BQ.
25 September, 1980.

30,000,000 EUROPEAN COMPOSITE UNITS

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK 6¾% BONDS OF 1973, DUE 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the amount to become due against Coupon No. 7 dated 27th September 1980 from the above bonds is DM220.12 per coupon or, in the case of coupons in respect of which valid selections of other currencies of payment have been made, US$122.19 or Italian Lire 104,597.00 per coupon, as the case may be.

Furthermore, as no bond was purchased for the account of the EIB during the period September 27, 1979 to September 26, 1980 the amount outstanding remains Eurco 29,107,000.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda)

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER PAYMENT OF COUPON NO. 90

With reference to the notice of declaration of dividend advertised in the press on 11th September, 1980, the following information is published for the guidance of holders of share warrants to bearer.

The dividend of 16 cents was declared in United States currency. The dividend on bearer shares will be paid on or after 24th October, 1980 against surrender of coupon No. 90 detached from share warrants to bearer as under:

(a) at the office of the corporation's continental paying agents: Credit du Nord, 6-8 Boulevard Haussmann, Paris 75009.

(b) at the London Bearer Reception Office of Charter Consolidated Limited, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ. Unless persons depositing coupons at such office request payment in U.S. dollars (in which case they must comply with any applicable Exchange Control regulations), payment will be made in United Kingdom currency either:

(i) in respect of coupons lodged prior to 10th October, 1980 at the United Kingdom currency equivalent of the United States currency value of their dividend on 14th October, 1980, or:

(ii) in respect of coupons lodged during the period 10th October, 1980 to 15th October, 1980, both days inclusive, at the United Kingdom currency equivalent of the United States currency value of their dividend on 20th October, 1980, or:

(iii) in respect of coupons lodged on or after 16th October, 1980, at the then prevailing rate of exchange on the day the proceeds are remitted to the London Bearer Reception Office.

Coupons must be left for at least four clear days (eight days if payment in United States currency has been requested) for examination and may be presented any weekday (Saturday excepted) between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

United Kingdom income tax will be deducted from payments to any person in the United Kingdom in respect of coupons deposited at the London Bearer Reception Office, unless such coupons are accompanied by Inland Revenue non-residence declaration forms. Where such deduction is made, the net amount of the dividend will be 11.20 cents (U.S.) per share as follows:

	United States Currency Per Share
	cents
Amount of dividend declared	16.00
Less: U.K. income tax at 30% on the gross amount of the dividend of 16 cents	4.80
	11.20

In the case of payments made in U.K. currency the sterling equivalent of the net dividend will be calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (b) above.

For and on behalf of
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
London Secretaries
J. C. Greensmith

London Office:
40 Holborn Viaduct,
EC1P 1AJ
25th September, 1980

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE SUEZ

At their Board Meeting of 16th September 1980, the Directors decided to call an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at the end of October or beginning of November.

The following proposals will be put to the Meeting:

1) To decide to increase the share capital by F.471 million, from F.942 million to F.1,413 million, by the incorporation of various premiums and of a part of the revaluation surplus, and the corresponding increase of the nominal share value from F.100 to F.150.

This proposal would enable the company to take advantage of present tax regulations which allow the incorporation of certain premiums and reserves into the capital free of duty.

2) To renew the authorisation given to the Board by the Extraordinary General Meeting of 29th May 1979 to increase the share capital by a maximum amount of F.500 million in one or several stages and by any means.

This is merely an authorisation in principle, valid for 5 years, which the Board does not intend to use for the moment.

3) To authorise the Board to issue stocks convertible into shares for a maximum amount of F.1,000 million on the French and international market with waiver of preferential right of subscription, but with right of priority for issues made in France.

It is the Board's intention to make partial use of this authorisation to issue a convertible loan in France before the end of the current year, if market conditions are favourable.

INTERNATIONAL DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS REPRESENTING SHARES PAR VALUE $2.50 COMMON STOCK

J. P. MORGAN & CO. INCORPORATED

A cash distribution of $0.70 per Depositary Share will be payable on and after the 22nd October 1980, upon presentation of Coupon No. 40 at:

Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.
30 West Broadway,
(Corporate Trust Department, New York)
35 Avenue des Arts, Brussels
Morgan House, 1 Angel Court, London
82 Frankrijklei, Antwerp

at the designated rate, less applicable taxes.

This distribution is in respect of the regular Quarterly dividend payable on the common shares P.V. $2.50 J. P. Morgan & Company Incorporated on the 10th September 1980.

THE TOR INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the REGISTERS of the Income Shares and Capital Shares will be CLOSED from 10th to 22nd October 1980 inclusive.

By Order of the Board.
J. TODD, Secretary.

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

EMIRATES AND SUDAN INVESTMENT COMPANY

announces that the closing date for submission of tenders for the construction of

PORT UDAN HOTEL

is the

30th OCTOBER, 1980

instead of

19th OCTOBER, 1980

CLUBS

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

ELECTRONICS COMPANY FOR SALE

Purchaser sought for well established, medium sized electronics company with own product range of high reputation which requires additional capital to exploit market potential.

Write Box G6560, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

FOR SALE TIMBER IMPORT AGENCY IN HAMBURG/GERMANY

Main business: Sales of American/Canadian soft- and hardwood lumber, plywood, tropical hardwoods from South-east Asia, West Africa and South America incl. manufactured wood products, well-introduced on the German market, suitable for foreign Timber Companies, to build up their own representation.

Write Box G.6553, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY.

OPPORTUNITY IN SHETLAND

North Sea Supplies Company wishes to dispose of its Lerwick operation. Apart from the freehold depot with stocks of heating and plumbing supplies, tools and electrical equipment, etc., there is a business in contracting, industrial and domestic plumbing and heating services. Turnover is about £300,000 per annum. The site is capable of further expansion but the business is currently not profitable.

Please write Box G6558, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

SPECIALIST CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE BRAZING SUB-CONTRACTOR

In Midlands. Excellent property and assets. Opportunity to acquire well established company at realistic value.

Write Box G6546, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

Midlands based Privately owned Engineering Equipment Supply & Maintenance Co.

T/o £800,000+, pre-tax profit approx £30,000. Unused tax allowances £67,000. Existing management will continue if required. Please write to Box G6547 for further details.

Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

CAR AND VAN RENTAL BUSINESS FOR SALE

Well established profitable car, van and truck rental operation for sale. Two prime sites in Croydon and Beckenham with long leases and low charges.

Box G6548, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

JANITORIAL SUPPLIES COMPANY FOR SALE

Due to a change in group policy

Janitorial House For Sale

Midlands based with profitable turnover of between £4/500,000.

Write Box G6543, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

LUXTON & LOWE

Specialist Agents in the SALE & PURCHASE OF HOTELS/ CATERING & NURSING REST HOMES

Urgently require sound businesses of all types to meet steady demand

Business Chambers
96a Burlington Road, New Malden
Surrey - 01-949 5451 - PBX

FOR SALE ROAD TANKER HAULAGE BUSINESS

In North West England. Medium size fleet with good contracts and modern depots with a turnover of £1,600,000.

Write Box G.6539, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

ESTABLISHED AGRICULTURAL CONTRACTING BUSINESS FOR SALE

Midlands Area

Excellent returns from regular contracts. Ample scope for expansion. Freehold premises.

Apply in confidence to: Box G6524, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

COMPANY FOR SALE

Service company with profits at £300,000 p.a. Enjoying a market leadership position with excellent growth prospects. £1 million.

Principals only please

Write Box G6525, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

ESTABLISHED PRODUCT RANGE FOR SALE

Showing £80/100,000 Turnover with good gross margin.

Suitable for small Fabricator.

Write Box G6552, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

CENTRAL LONDON

Specialised and highly regarded service business with excellent staff. T.O. approx. £100,000. Net profits about £30,000 annually, rising. Available only due to principal's retirement. Attractive leasehold premises and well-established concern.

Write Box G6551, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

IMPORTANT MAGAZINE PUBLICATION FOR SALE AS A GOING CONCERN

Turnover in excess of £1 million. Principals only.

Box G6556, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

CLOTHING FACTORY

For Sale. Manufacturing light clothing in North West. Single storey building, 15,000 sq ft 100 Machinists

Write Box G6559, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

FOOD DISTRIBUTION. Profitable, specialised Company. T/O £160,000. Located London. 0905 22303.

GENERAL JOINERY & TIMBER ENGINEERING BUSINESS FOR SALE

The business, which operates from a 10-acre site on the outskirts of Hull, holds a strong market position in this area of the North-East with a sales turnover of approximately £3.5 million per annum.

The skilled workforce numbers around 200 employees and the business is offered for sale as a going concern.

Please apply:—
Box No. S.8534, Reynell & Son Ltd.,
Eldon Chambers, 30/32 Fleet Street
London EC4Y 1AA

RETAIL JEWELLERS BUSINESS For Sale

Operating from 3 prominent well-fitted Shops in good positions—SE England

T/O approx £185,000

Management and trained staff

Full details from:

Box G6540, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

FOR SALE PRINTING WORKS

Previously used for heat transfer and general packaging printing. Assets include:

74" Strachan & Henshaw 8-colour common impression press.

88" Strachan & Henshaw 2-colour flexographic press and ancillary equipment.

Leasehold factory also available.

Contact M. J. G. Grant or S. W. Dilley, Spicer and Pegler, 1st Floor, Queen Anne House, 69-71 Queen Square, Bristol, BS1 4AE. Telephone Bristol 214741.

Lithographic Reproduction Company

Central London — well established company with reputation for high quality work.

Leasehold, 6,000 sq. ft. works, modern plant and equipment including step and repeat machine and scanner, excellent workforce.

Please telephone 01-831 7130 ext. 600 Monday to Friday.

COMPANY FOR SALE ? COMPANY WANTED

Whatever type of business you want to buy or sell, when you present a sound proposition, you can depend on a good response from our readers. Just one warning Businesses For Sale/Wanted are advertised every FRIDAY in the Financial Times, but not for long, the responses they receive see to that.

INTERESTED?

For further information regarding space availability, advertising rates and conditions of acceptance contact DIANE STEWARD 01-248 5284

Manufacturer of Accommodation Units for Sale

Turnover amounts to approx. £2.4 million per annum. Customers consist of large companies, schools and local authorities with some export content.

The business, which is situated on a freehold site in the county of Humberside, employs around 50 persons and is offered for sale as a going concern.

Please apply:—
Box No. S.8535, Reynell & Son Limited,
Eldon Chambers, 30/32 Fleet Street,
London EC4Y 1AA.

FOR SALE Light Metal Pressing and Fabrication Company

— West Midlands —

Turnover over £2m. Net Assets £350,000.

Freehold Manufacturing Site.

Profitable. *Continuity of Management* available.

Box G6557, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

MOTOR PARTS & ACCESSORIES STORE

Retirement places on the market progressive established London

on Freehold site over 7,400 square feet
Only 5 miles South West of Piccadilly

★ TURNOVER *1979* — *£340,000* (increasing)
★ FREEHOLDS VALUED AT £275,000
★ STOCKS AT OVER £45,000 (cost)

Exceptional potential for expansion exists and substantial offers will be looked for. Our Chairman will only reply to direct decision makers who identify themselves and their interest.

Write Box G6455, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

HOTELS AND LICENSED PREMISES

HOTEL GROUP WISH TO SELL

COUNTY HOTEL

THE PROMENADE, LLANDUDNO, NORTH WALES

104 bedrooms, 4 bars, restaurant, 2 ballrooms. Turnover £200,000. £180,000 plus stock

WOODLANDS HOTEL

WELLINGTON ROAD, TIMPERLEY, CHESHIRE

36 bedrooms, luxurious function room, French restaurant, 5 busy bars. Turnover £400,000.

Offers over £450,000 plus stock for immediate sale

All enquiries to A. R. Lababedi, Woodlands Hotel, 061-941 3926

BUSINESSES WANTED

WANTED CONFIRMING HOUSE

Old established UK company now part of a group financed from Middle East wishes to acquire profitable Confirming House with broad spread of overseas clients. Continuity of management preferred and funds are available to expand existing business. Minimum turnover region of £5m-£10m.

Reply in confidence in first instance to:

Box G6545, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

ARE YOU SUPPLYING THE BUILDING OR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES?

A Group of Chemical Companies wish to expand their operation in these fields and are seeking to purchase small manufacturing companies for cash. Send details in confidence to:

Box G6550, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

COMPANY ACQUISITIONS

Offshore investment company seeks acquisitions of companies with substantial

PROPERTY OR FIXED OR LIQUID ASSETS

Straight cash deals preferred with no retained minority holdings, no share for share exchanges and no continuing directorships

Replies in strictest confidence to:

The Chairman, Box G6401, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

IMPORT/EXPORT COMPANY REQUIRED

Price range £3 million to £5 million - Principals only

Write Box G6541, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

WANTED

Small or medium-sized company manufacturing specialised clothing or footwear to M.o.D. standards. Continuity of present management preferable.

Please write to Box G6530 Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

A MEDIUM SIZED EAST ANGLIAN-BASED ENGINEERING GROUP

has cash available for injection into suitable manufacturing companies of substance or in acquiring such companies from existing principals on the basis of continued operation. Companies with a turnover of up to £1m per annum are unlikely to be of interest.

The Group's main interests currently lie in the manufacture and marketing of all types of heating, refrigerating, air conditioning and catering equipment but the Group is interested in expanding this base to other manufacturing activities.

If the above proposal is of interest to you please write in strictest confidence to:

Box G6549, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

PLANT AND MACHINERY

SALE BY AUCTION

9 October LARGE CAPACITY & OTHER MACHINE TOOLS

By Order of H. W. E. Thompson and J. Cheetham Joint Receivers and Managers of Trafalgar Engineering Ltd.

AN IMPORTANT SALE OF LARGE CAPACITY & OTHER MACHINE TOOLS INCLUDING:

Horizontal and Vertical Borers up to 19 ft diameter including Richards 10 ft vertical and Union 8FT 125 horizontal, Richards 5" floor Borer with 18 ft long and 11 ft vertical travel (1965). Asquith 8 ft x 6 ft powered rotary table. Radial Drilling machines up to 6 ft. 12 ft diameter Facing Lathe. Plano-Mills with Futurmil heads and capacity to 23 ft x 9 ft. Churchill U3615 Gear Hobber (1965). Heckert Thread and Spline Miller with 5M bed (1978), Centre Lathes with capacity to 48" swing x 29 ft. b.c. Tool Crib equipment. Fabricating equipment including plate marking-out, profile cutting, welding, etc.

To be held on Thursday, 9th October, 1980.

For further details contact the Auctioneers.

Grimley & son
CHARTERED SURVEYORS
021-236 8236

AIRCRAFT FOR SALE

ENSTROM F28A HELICOPTER

658 hours, excellent condition £32,000. Ideal to learn, full tuition and advice available

Ring Mrs. J. M. Lomas on 061-308 3731

CHIPBOARD MANUFACTURING PLANT

BUILT 1958, CAPACITY 36,000 M3 PER ANNUM

BOARD SIZE 3660 mm x 1730 mm x 12/22 mm

COMPRISING:
10 Daylight S.V.H. Press
Schenck Spreaders
Auto Feeders, etc.

Finishing Line
Steinemann OSUS Sanders and Schwabedissen
Saws complete with Provenair Filtering System

Seen working to Mid-October 1980. Offers:

C. T. White,
WEYROC LIMITED,
Tel. Weybridge 45599

MARINE & INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT

Group seeking expansion currently established with world wide marketing of Marine Equipment and Industrial Corrosion Protection Equipment seeks new products in similar or allied fields. Cash available for investment in existing businesses or development of new products.

Principals only write to

Box G6554, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BOX

Investors interested in a quick purchase of small to medium size manufacturing unit

Write Box G6522, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

OLD ESTABLISHED COMPANY

in Men's and Boys' Wear now developing into Mail Order would be interested in acquiring an established company already trading in that field. Principals should write in first instance to Ronald Teeman & Co., Solicitors, Aire House, Swinegate, Leeds LS1 4AJ (Ref RT).

Strict Confidentiality Assured.

ABOVE AVERAGE PRICE

To be paid for an expanding business currently earning between £200,000 and £1,000,000 p.a. by a successful public company

Please contact The Chairman, Box G6510, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY or telephone 01-278 9635 to arrange a confidential meeting

Printing & Packaging Companies sought for Acquisition

Medium-sized Public Company seeking to expand by acquisition have funds available to acquire companies with *profits over £50,000 per* annum, in the West Midlands. Write in confidence to:

Box G6518, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

Engineering Company Wanted

Private group wishes to buy an additional small manufacturing business located in the West Midlands area. Any proposition considered. Principals or their accountants should contact the Director in strict confidence at:

Box G6555, Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

BINGO CLUBS

Independent seeks to purchase above. Would consider non-trading Bingo Licensed premises. When replying include all main stage equipment, fixtures and fittings.

Reply in confidence to:

Box G6544, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

RETAIL FOOTWEAR CHAINS REQUIRED

Price range £1 million to £10 million. United Kingdom and Europe. Principals only.

Write Box G6542, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Heavy early trading on Wall St.

FOLLOWING the mixed tone to Wednesday's trading on Wall Street, stocks turned marginally lower by mid-session in heavy trading yesterday.

The market had been firm through much of the morning and at 11 pm the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 3.16 to 967.22. But at 1 pm it had fallen back to 963.82, a drop of 0.94 on the day. The NYSE All Common Index was off 0.19 at 75.15. Declines led advances by a narrow margin on turnover at 35.22m shares (29m).

Analysts said institutional investors were moving to the sidelines to await developments in the war between Iraq and Iran. Meanwhile, traders were continuing to buy Oils and other Speculative issues.

Observers said there was no change in the economic outlook although that remains a threat if oil supplies are seriously disrupted by the Middle East fighting.

Active IBM slipped $½ to $67, General Motors $⅜ to $54⅛, U.S. Steel $¼ to $22¼, Exxon $¼ to $70¼, Procter and Gamble $¼ to $74½ and General Electric $¼ to $54⅞.

City Investing dropped $1. After the close on Wednesday, the company said directors approved plans to sell assets with a book value of $541m and a market value of $800m. On Wednesday City Investing gained $2½.

Active Xerox gained $1¾ to $67¾. On Wednesday it unveiled a new "intelligent" copier that can transmit and receive messages as well as make copies. Measurex reported a sharp fall in fiscal third quarter net and lost $2⅜ to $28⅜.

Rohr Industries lost $1⅛ to $12⅞. It reported losses for its fourth quarter and year ended July 31. Combustion Engineering gained $¾ to $86. It raised its dividend and will split two for one.

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

THE AMERICAN SE Market Value Index slipped 1.14 to 346.35 on volume of 4.67m shares (5.15m).

Canada

In contrast to the broad advance on Wednesday afternoon, the Toronto market turned lower early yesterday. The Composite Index fell 6.1 to 2,341.7 and seven of 14 sub-indices retreated.

Gold issues continued broadly lower. Dome Mines dropped C$5½ to C$142½ while Sigma Mines at C$54 and Campbell Red Lake at C$89 each fell C$2. Camflo Mines lost C$1¾ to C$44¼, and Giant Yellowknife C$½ to C$36½.

Imperial Oil A, the most active industrial issue on 148,641 shares, fell C$¼ to C$43¼.

Meanwhile, in Montreal, share prices were higher in active trading. The Composite Index rose 0.24 to 374.19 and three of four major indices advanced.

Germany

After a steady start, leading stocks closed mixed, with market sentiment undermined by reports that Bayer may be introducing short time.

Bayer closed DM 1.30 down, while BASF rose DM 1.30, lifted by its interests in the Oil sector. Hoechst shed DM 0.90.

Daimler gained DM 1 and VW lost DM 0.50 in Autos, while Industrials and Stores were little changed.

Bourse sources said the Middle East conflict continues to boost oil shares, with Norsk Hydro rising a further DM 8.50 to 237, and Exxon up DM 3.50 to DM 127.00.

The late weakness affected Bankings, with Deutsche sliding DM 0.10 to DM 288.90.

Domestic bonds continued to ease, losing up to DM 0.60, with isolated minute gains and Bundesbank purchases of DM 13.9m (DM 36.5m).

Australia

News of the continuing conflict between Iran and Iraq boosted the energy sector as nervous gold traders reinvested profits. The Sydney All Ordinaries Index rose by 3.19 to 995.57, a high for the year.

The Gold sector opened generally weaker in response to the New York gold market's almost unchanged quote of US$710/712 and drifted lower in the afternoon.

Santos, which recently reported oil flows in the Cooper Basin, led the Oils with a 50-cent gain to A$14.50 while Woodside put on five cents to A$3.15 and Strata gained five cents to A$2.70.

Most selling of golds was confined to smaller stocks but Central Norseman dropped 20 cents to A$12.50 and Emperor lost 15 cents to A$4.60.

Demand for Oils also tended to rub off on other Energy shares, led by Peko which rose 50 cents to A$11.50, and Coal Miner Utah, which rose 14 cents to A$5.60.

BHP finished 25 cents up at A$15.95 to lead a generally stagnant Industrial board. In other trading MIM gained three cents to A$4.75, while Western Mining lost two cents to A$5.98, CSR lost two cents to A$7.36 and ICI firmed two cents to A$2.87.

Tokyo

Share prices closed higher yesterday, led by Blue Chips and Populars, following an overnight rally on Wall Street and fresh foreign buying.

The Nikkei Dow Average rose 17.22 to close at 6,989.84, on volume of 350m shares. The Tokyo New SE Index closed at 483.69, up 1.80.

Electricals firmed after a sharp fall yesterday, with Sony rising Y130 to Y3,190, Pioneer Y70 to Y2,280 and Matsushita Electric Y17 to Y783 on active cheap buying.

Despite the intensifying conflict between Iran and Iraq, foreign buying increased—raising prices of Heavy Electricals, Steels and Shipbuildings. Hitachi rose Y7 to Y321, Toshiba Y5 to Y216, Mitsubishi Electric Y7 to Y220 and Kawasaki Steel Y2 to Y139.

Some Defence-related issues also firmed. But Oils, nonferrous Metals and Coals closed lower.

Hong Kong

Share prices closed lower on widespread profit-taking in subdued trading yesterday.

The market opened steadily but weakened gradually for most of the day with most counters recording sharp losses. But late buying saved most shares from closing at their lowest of the day.

Losers included Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, down 40 cents to HK$17.70, Hongkong Land, down 60 cents to HK$17.90, Hutchison Whampoa, 40 cents easier at HK$13.50, and Jardine Matheson, off 60 cents at HK$27.40.

At the close the Hang Seng index had fallen 24.36 to 1,283.76.

Against the trend, Swire Pacific A was unchanged at HK$8.70 ahead of its interim results.

Paris

In a reflection of Wall Street's steadiness on Wednesday, Paris stocks were steady to firmer in moderate trading yesterday.

Dealers said reaction by Bourse operators to the conflict between Iran and Iraq had generally been calm.

Banks and Insurance, Investment and Real Estate, Foods, Construction, Electricals, Oils and Chemicals followed the trend, but Rubbers and Cars weakened.

Amsterdam

Share prices closed mixed to higher with Royal Dutch up Fl 1.80 and Unilever gaining Fl 1.30, while KLM lost Fl 1.20 in Dutch Internationals.

Milan

Gains narrowly outnumbered losses yesterday in active trading, and the market closed mixed.

Banks, Insurances and Financial Issues were generally firm with Generali, Bastogi, Centrale and Mediobanca among leading issues to gain ground. Both Pirellis were also firm but Fiat lost L50 to L2,250.

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

Producers meet as coffee falls

By Our Commodities Staff

COFFEE producers were meeting until late last night in London to try to hammer out an agreement on export quotas which might pave the way for agreement between them and the main consumer nations at the International Coffee Organisation meeting.

Meanwhile prices on the London terminal market again fell to new four-year lows. November robusta futures fell by another £12.5 to close at £1034.5 a tonne.

The ICO council has set up a contact group of four consumer and four producer countries which will meet this morning to work on whatever proposals the producers have been able to reach. ICO delegates said that the advantage of a contact group would be its ability to concentrate on the technical details of introducing export quotas.

Until yesterday the two sides had been talking for the best part of two weeks without much sign of agreement. If the talks do look like coming to some point they may be continued into the weekend.

Market apple changes urged

MEASURES to help British apple growers cope with competition from imports, notably French Golden Delicious, are being put to the European Parliament by David Curry, Conservative Euro-MP for Essex.

Mr. Curry is calling for changes in the way the Common Market regulates the apple industry. He wants a tighter system of grading apples to prevent poor quality fruit being dumped on domestic markets while the best apples are reserved for exports, and a limitation in shipments of Grade 2 apples to the U.K. for a transitional period to help English growers recapture some of their domestic market.

Mr. Curry also proposes changes in the way the intervention support buying system works so that it does not favour so heavily southern European producers with apple yields twice as big as Britain's.

He is demanding as well an investigation by the EEC Commission of national aids given by individual governments to apple growers. Mr. Curry claimed that he was seeking to gain time for the tremendous efforts English growesr were making to put their own house in order.

Copper market under pressure

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

COPPER prices fell back sharply on the London Metal Exchange yesterday losing most of the gains earlier this week. Cash wirebars closed £17 down at £880 a tonne.

The market was depressed by the decline in gold and silver, and news from the U.S. that Inspiration Consolidated Copper, one of the smaller producers, had reached a tentative settlement with the unions to end the 12-week old strike by its workers. It is thought that Duval Copper, whose labour contracts expire on September 30 will also reach an agreement over the weekend similar to the terms negotiated by Kennecott. These further settlements are expected to increas pressure on the bigger producers to renew negotiations seeking an end to the stoppage.

Meanwhile Noranda announced I was cutting its U.S. copper selling price by 3 cents to $1.01 a lb.

Other metals came under selling pressure, but losses were slight in quiet trading conditions.

Cash zinc, however, fell by £5.5 to £336 a tonne, in spite of an announcement by the UK based smelter, A. M. and S. Europe, that it had decided to revise its European price increase from $805 to $845 a tonne. This brings it into line with other leading producers in Canada and Australia, who reacted to the original A. M. and S. rise of $25 to $805 by going to $845 instead.

However, traders were worried by the fact that European smelters have not joined in the rise so far and are reported to be doubtful as to whether hte market can stand an increase to $845.

Lead was boosted by news from the U.S. that St. Joe Lead Company, one of the leading producers, had raised its domestic selling price for corroding grade lead by 3 cents to 45 cents a lb. This suggests that demand is recovering after the heavy falls suffered in the second quarter.

Following the downtrend in gold, the London bullion spot quotation for silver was cut by 12.5p to 891.30p a troy ounce at the morning fixing. Values recovered slightly in afternoon trading and the LME cash price closed at 903.5p an ounce, still 40.5p down on the previous day's close.

Free market platinum lost £6.35 to £295.90 an ounce.

Efforts to avoid rubber pact delay

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

OFFICIALS OF the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) are making last-minute efforts to persuade the U.S. and EEC countries to ratify the international rubber agreement quickly so that it can come into force as planned on October 1.

The agreement needs the ratification of countries accounting for at least 65 per cent of both imports and exports of rubber. At the moment it has been ratified by Malaysia and Indonesia—giving 73.6 per cent on the exporting side; but on the importing side only Japan, China, Czechoslovakia and Australia—representing 22 per cent of imports—have ratified.

If the agreement is not ratified on time it would mean that the International Rubber Council could not start work. But the agreement would not be lost, provided that it is ratified within two years.

The U.S., with 24.7 per cent of imports, and the EEC countries, with 23.2 per cent, are the big importing groups whose support is essential. Officials in Geneva said that there were no problems about these countries ratifying except procedural problems of getting the measures through the Government machinery.

Meanwhile, in its latest statistical bulletin, the International rubber study group said that world natural rubber production is stagnant.

For the 12 months ended June 30, production was nearly 3.8m tonnes, compared with 3.85m for the whole of 1979 and 3.82m for the 12 months ended June 30, 1979.

Record European harvest seen

FARMERS of the EEC will produce a record cereals crop this year, but they may face difficulties in selling part of it, it was predicted yesterday.

The 1980 cereals harvests in the nine EEC nations could total 118.5m tonnes, according to the farmers' union lobby organisation Copa.

This would be nearly 5 per cent more than last year's 113m tonnes and will face the EEC countries with the choice of buying up surplus grain for stocks or selling it at subsidised rates on the world market.

Bad weather earlier this summer at one point appeared to threaten harvests, and may have caused a drop in quality in some crops, a Copa official said.

The London-based International Wheat Council predicts world wheat production should at least equal the record 450m tonnes in the crop year which started in July.

This compares with the 1979-1980 output of 425m tonnes and the previous record of 450m in 1978-79.

The IWC said its estimate is tentative, as southern hemisphere crops will not be harvested for several months, although it does include the latest lower estimate of the Australian crop.

The apparent sharp decline in forecast consumption this year reflects exceptionally high feed use of wheat in the USSR in the 1979-80 season when a high degree of substitution of wheat for rice and maize was alsn seen in developing countries, the report says. Reuter

Grain ban alters world trade patterns

CHICAGO — The greatest effect of the U.S. embargo on grain shipments to the Soviet Union has been to change world trade patterns, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland told the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

"The embargo is now largely a political statement," Mr. Bergland said.

"Some people argue that it has had no effect on Soviet supplies. This may be true, but it has prevented them from selling grain to Eastern European countries which they traditionally supplied under dictated conditions. So now we are selling to these countries, and that's to our foreign policy advantage."

China buys more grain

BY TONY WALKER IN PEKING

CHINA has been extremely active in world grain markets recently suggesting it expects a *shortfall* in its own production.

The Chinese may also be buying now in the expectation that buoyant world wheat prices will rise further.

According to U.S. agricultural officials, China has been buying heavily in the American market since June. They estimate Chinese grain purchases from the U.S. this year have topped 6m tonnes, mostly wheat.

These are easily the largest Chinese grain purchases from the U.S. Last year China took only 1.6m tonnes of American wheat.

An expected drop this year in wheat production in Australia and Canada — traditionally China's biggest suppliers, may have influenced Peking to buy heavily in the U.S. market.

China has also recently renewed wheat deals with long-term suppliers like Canada and Argentina. Canada has agreed to supply China with a minimum of 8.4m tonnes of grain over a three-year period ending in July, 1982. Argentina agreed to supply 1m tonnes of wheat and maize over the next year or so.

A third agreement was reached last week with the French for the supply of 0.5m tonnes to 0.7m tonnes of grain each year for three years.

This deal has puzzled agricultural attachés in Peking. French wheat prices are not competitive on world markets. For China to purchase at these prices would require special subsidy arrangements agreed to by the EEC.

Traditional suppliers like Australia and Canada may not be happy if the EEC agreed to such an arrangement on long-term supplies as opposed to spot sales. France has been supplying 0.2m to 0.3m tonnes of grain a year to China.

One attaché described the French agreement as a possible bargaining ploy by the Chinese who may be getting anxious about long-term supplies at reasonable prices.

China has admitted a shortfall of 10 per cent in summer wheat production. This suggests it will have difficulty matching last year's record output.

According to some estimates China's wheat crop may be down by 6 per cent this year. This would partly explain its recent activity in grain markets. China imported more than 10m tonnes of grain last year. Imports this year will easily top that figure.

The value of grain purchases from the U.S. alone this year may approach $1bn. Unlike other suppliers, America does not negotiate long-term agreements with the Chinese, who have to buy on the open market.

China has imported considerable amounts of grain over the past two years in spite of record output. Big grain imports are part of present *policy* to increase supplies of basic foodstuffs throughout China.

One agricultural attaché said Chinese purchases in the American market may also be influenced by political considerations. He said it would not have escaped the attention of the Chinese that wheat shipments to the Soviet Union by countries like Australia continue at high levels in spite of the embargo spearheaded by the U.S.

New EEC fish proposals

BY A CORRESPONDENT

NEW PROPOSALS for saving Europe's ailing fishing industry will be put to EEC governments. But they have been presented too late for any action to be taken by Ministers at the Fisheries Council meeting on Monday.

The proposals by the Commission are part of a package aimed at getting an agreed EEC fishing policy by the end of this year.

With British fishermen in particular threatened by rising fuel costs, low quayside prices and cheap imports, Mr. Peter Walker, Agriculture Minister, will be under pressure to back these latest suggestions from the Brussels Commission, to save the industry and speed up settlement of the five-year search for a community fishing regime.

Finn Gundelach, EEC Agriculture Commissioner, wants to see more support for producer organisations, a better system of guaranteed prices for fish catches; aids for fish storage and processing; and tougher import controls on cheap fish from outside the Community.

Producer organisations already receive EEC finance to enable them to guarantee fishermen a minimum price when damand is low, but the Commission feels that a system of block grant aid would encourage the setting up of more of these bodies.

They could also be encouraged to persuade fishermen to better organise their fishing to meet market requirements.

Meanwhile a plan to enable laid-up Fleetwood trawlers to resume fishing was urged on fisheries minister Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith during a visit to the Lancashire port today.

Mr. Alan Marr, chairman of trawler company J. Marr and Son asked the minister to underwrite *special* voyages which would enable skippers to relearn British grounds which had been exploited by the French while Fleetwood ships were fishing off Iceland.

The company wants to send its vessels hunting in packs with new fishing gear, but cannot afford to do so because of low market prices.

Danes back pout deal

BY HILARY BARNES IN COPENHAGEN

DANISH fisheries minister Poul Dalsager received political backing for the Norway Pout Box compromise agreement with the UK yesterday in spite of protests by Danish fishermen, who claim the deal will cut their pout fishing by about 40 per cent.

But after a meeting of the Folketing (parliament) market affairs committee Mr. Dalsager can safely go to Brussels to conclude a final agreement. Although there was Opposition criticism of the deal, there was no majority against the government.

The dispute over Norway pout concerns an area of the North Sea off the east coast of Scotland, which Britain unilaterally closed to Danish fishermen in 1978. This decision was ruled illegal by the European Court this summer.

The provisional agreement between the Danish and British governments, which is now with the EEC commission for ratification, is understood to impose restrictions on the Danish fishing, but according to Mr. Dalsager they will be able to fish about 5 per cent more pout than they could under the illegal restriction.

No hormone threat to UK veal sales

By John Cherrington, Agriculture Correspondent

HORMONE growth promoters, which have led to consumers on the Continent refusing to buy veal, are unlikely to affect sales of home-grown veal in the UK. Use of such additives is rigidly controlled by the Medicines Act.

Various growth promoters are used, in the form of anarobic steroids which are fed to most types of intensively kept animals.

The products themselves are licensed for use under the Medicines Act. This lays down not only the materials to be used but the dosage and times of application, so that here can be no possibility of a residual amount in the carcass after slaughter.

The product widely used on the Continent is Stilboestrol, a synthetic hormone which has the effect of encouraging water retention in the tissues and this increases the killing weight. It also prevents the growth of the long bones, thus giving the animals a blocky appearance.

The use of this material is officially banned in European countries but there is a widespread black market which until now has not been suppressed by the authorities with the firmness which applied in the UK some years ago when it was suggested that these materials should be used.

Asked if British veal calves were fed on these growth promoters, Mr. Philip Paxman, director of one of the largest companies, Volac, told me that they had been using some of the permitted ones but had now given them up partly because of the surge of public disquiet, which has been building up in Europe for some time now, but also because in the end their results were just as good as long as the animals were kept in a good environment with adequate nutrition.

Frost fears boost sugar

World sugar prices rose yesterday on the London terminal market on fears that frost in much of European Russia and Ukraine is likely to lower the sugar content of this year's beet crop. March futures closed £9 up at £406.125 a tonne. Earlier, he London daily price for raws rose £10 to £365 a tonne.

BRITISH COMMODITY MARKETS

BASE METALS

COPPER—Lost further ground on the London Metal Exchange reflecting the renewed decline in gold. Having opened the day at £924 three months metal fell away throughout the day on general liquidation which was only partly met by trade buying. The price moved down to the day's low of £902 on the afternoon Kerb but recovered slightly to close at £905. Turnover: 32,650 tonnes (Wednesday 23,225 tonnes).

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	878.5-9.5	-15.2	879.5-80.5	—17
3 months	909-10	-11.7	910-.5	-16.2
Settlem't	878.0	—15	—	
Cathodes				
Cash	844-7	-17.5	850-8	—18
3 months	875-80	-15.5	880-1	—17
Settlem't	847	—17	—	......
U.S. Prod		......	*88.7-104	......

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars traded at £879; three months £913, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 11, 12, 11.5, 11, 10, 09. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £907, 08, 09, 08, 06. Afternoon: Wirebars, three months £910, 10.5, 10, 10.5, 10, 10.5. Cathodes: Three months £880. Kerb: Wirebars, three months £903, 4, 5, 4, 4.5, 3, 2, 3, 4, 5, 4.5, 5, 6, 5, 4.

TIN—Easier in line with other metals and also following a fall on the Penang market. After opening at £7,310 forward metal dipped to £7,270 on the morning Kerb but staged a modest recovery in the afternoon to close the Kerb at £7,300. Turnover: 1,195 tonnes (Wednesday 680 tonnes).

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade	£	£	£	£
Cash	7265-35	+35	7215-25	—20
3 months	7295-305	+15	7285-305	—25
Settlem't	7255	+55	—	......
Standard				
Cash	7225-34	+35	7213-20	—20
3 months	7285-306	+15	7285-305	—25
Settlem't	7233	+55	—	......
Straits. E.	†$2210	—6	—	......
New York	—	......		

Morning: Standard: Cash £7,230; three months £7,300, 10, 7,290. Kerb: Standard: Three months £7,290. Afternoon: Standard: Three months £7,295, 95. Kerb: Standard: Three months £7,300.

LEAD—Barely changed on balance. Forward metal moved up from £380 to £383 on the early pre-market, reflecting short covering, but dipped sharply to £378 on the morning Kerb following heavy offerings of cash metal which widened the contango to £19 at one point. However, in the afternoon the market staged a good rally with forward metal moving ahead to close the late Kerb at £387.5. Turnover: 12,225 tonnes (Wednesday 11,050 tonnes).

LEAD	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	363.5-4	-3.75	367-70	+1.5
3 months	382-3	-2.75	384-6	+1.5
S'ment	364	—4	—	......
U.S. Spot	—	......	*42-44	......

Morning: Cash £365, 64; three months £381.5, 82, 83, 82, 83. Kerb: Three months £381, 80, 79. Afternoon: Three months £382, 83, 84, 83, 82.5, 82, 83. Kerb: Three months £385, 86, 87.

ZINC—Fell away reflecting persistent trade selling which depressed forward metal from £353 on the pre-market to £346.5 on the afternoon Kerb. Turnover: 5,350 tonnes (Wednesday 5,400 tonnes).

ZINC	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	357-9	-2.5	355-7	—5.6
3 months	348-50	-2.75	347.5-8	—5
S'ment	359	—1	—	......
Primw'ts	—	......	*37.0-37.75	—

Morning: Three months £352, 51.5, 51, 50. Kerb: Three months £349, 48. Afternoon: Three months £347, 47.5. Kerb: Three months £346, 48.5, 47.

ALUMINIUM—Gave ground owing to the general weakness in other metals. Forward metal opened around £702 but met persistent selling and fell back to close the late Kerb at £690 with the contango widening to £14. Turnover: 3,600 tonnes (Wednesday 3,850 tonnes).

Alumin'm	a.m. Official	† + or —	p.m. Unofficial	† + or —
	£	£	£	£
Spot	675-6	—19	677-9	—7.3
3 months	685.5-90.5	—6.5	691-3	—5.5

Morning: Cash £675; three months £692, 91, 90. Afternoon: Three months £691, 92. Kerb: Three months £690, 89, 90.

NICKEL—Lower following persistent offerings of cash metal which depressed three months from around £2,870 in the morning rings to the day's low of £2,800 prior to a close on the Kerb of £2,815. Turnover: 1,056 tonnes (Wednesday 270 tonnes).

NICKEL	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
Spot	2820-7	—21.5	2775-85	—62.5
3 months	2860-3	—15	2830-5	—45

Morning: Three months £2,870, 67, 65, 61. Afternoon: Cash £2,800, 2,790, 85, 80; three months £2,845. Kerb: Cash £2,785, 80, 85; three months, £2,835, 20, 2,800, 15.

* Cents per pound. ‡ $M per picul. † On previous unofficial close.

SILVER

Silver was fixed sharply lower in the London bullion market yesterday at 891.3p, a fall of 87.5p from Wednesday's fixing. U.S. equivalents of the fixing levels were: spot $21.40, down $2.14; three-month $22.08, down $2.177; six-month $22.74, down $2.149; and 12-month $24.41t, down $2.202. The metal opened at 933p-948p ($22.40-$22.70), and closed at 904p-917p ($21.70-$22.00), after touching a low of $20.50-$20.90.

SILVER per troy oz.	Bullion fixing price	+ or —	L.M.E. p.m. Unoffic'l	+ or —
Spot	881.30p	-12.5	903.5p	—40.5
3 months	925.50p	-90.5	939p	—44
6 months	956.00p	-89.9	—	......
12 months	1027.70p	+8.5	—	......

LME—Turnover 226 (209) lots of 10,000 ozs. Morning: Three months 945, 40, 38, 80, 35, 39, 37, 35, 33, 30, 25, 29, 30, 32, 30, 28. Kerbs: Three months 920. Afternoon: Cash 909. Three months 945, 43, 44, 45, 43, 41, 40. Kerbs: Three months 936, 38, 41, 40.

COCOA

Cocoa futures remained steady in quiet trading conditions throughout a featureless day, for prices to close with marginal gains of £5. Both producers and consumers were withdrawn from the market and second-hand business was also scarce, reports Gill and Duffus.

COCOA	Yesterd'ys Close	+ or —	Business Done
Sep	994-98	+4.3	1003-990
Dec	1080-81	+4.6	1084-14
March	1058-58	+6	1062-53
May	1077-72	+6	1021-73
July	1095-90	+4	1098-94
Sept	1113-14	+5	1118-14
Dec	1133-37	+9.5	—

Sales: 1,395 (3,245) lots of 10 tonnes.

ICO futures: Daily price for Sept. 24 110.09 (112.40). Indicator prices for Sept. 25: 10-day average 110.79 (110.65); 15-day average 109.43 (108.05).

COFFEE

Early dealer selling contributed towards opening losses before commission house buying around the contract lows lifted values slightly amid scattered sell orders, reports Drexel Burnham Lambert. No fresh features emerged during a quiet afternoon, but prices were seen to ease further in mixed dealings and thin volume, and to once again record new contract low in some positions.

COFFEE	yesterday's Close £ per tonne	+ or —	Business Done
Sept	863-68	—17	890-64
Nov	1033-36	—12.5	1052-35
January	1062-68	—17.5	1082-62
March	1073-78	—2	1090-70
May	1088-95	—6	1100-1085
July	1097-98	—12	1100-1150
Sept	1100-15	—13	1130-10

Sales: 1,778 (3,281) lots of 5 tonnes.

ICO Indicator prices for Sept. 24 (U.S. cents per pound). Other Mild Arabicas 129.92 (126.00). Robustas ICO 1976 124.00 (124.50). ICA 1968 124.25 (124.75). Unwashed Arabicas 211.50 (same). Comb. daily ICA 1968 167.07 (168.75).

GRAINS

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES—The market opened 10p-15p higher. Wheat saw continued pressure today against barley. Values remained about steady to close 10p-15p higher in fairly quiet trading. Barley was a good trade with active commercial buyers holding values firm at 30p higher, but further buying interest increased values to close 35p-50p up on the day, the main trade being in January and March options, reports Acli.

	WHEAT		BARLEY	
M'nth	Yesterday close	+ or —	Yesterday close	+ or —
Nov	99.15	+0.15	93.60	+0.55
Jan	105.35	+0.15	97.95	+0.45
Mar	106.95	—	101.50	+0.50
May	110.75	+0.19	105.15	+0.50
July	114.40	+0.19	—	—

Business done—Wheat: Nov. 99.20-99.10, Jan. 103.40-103.30, March 107.15-106.95, May 110.85-110.75, July 114.40-114.30. Sales: 227 lots of 100 tonnes. Barley—Nov. 93.70-93.45, Jan. 98.00-97.70, March 101.50-101.25, May 105.15-104.90. Sales: 403 lots of 100 tonnes.

HGCA — Locational ex-farm spot prices. Feed Barley: S. East 88.80, S. West 89.40, W. Midlands 88.50, N. West 87.90. Feed Wheat: S. East 95.70, S. West 94.90, W. Midlands 93.00, N. West 95.90. Other Milling Wheat: S. East 97.20, S. West 97.50, W. Midlands 97.70, N. West 99.30.

RUBBER

The London physical market opened quietly steady moving up on terminal market throughout the day, easing to close on an uncertain note. Lewis and Peat reported a fob October price for No. 1 RSS in Kuala Lumpur of 308.25 (313) cents a kilo and SMR 20 at 267 (270).

No. 1 R.S.S.	Yest'day Close	Previous Close	Business Done
Oct	65.30-65.40	64.00-66.00	65.50-65.30
Nov	66.19-67.00	65.50-66.00	68.50-66.40
Oct-Dec	66.80-68.00	65.30-65.40	69.40-68.50
Jan-Mar	72.30-72.40	69.20-69.30	72.80-72.00
Apr-Jne	75.70-75.80	72.50-72.60	75.90-75.40
Jly-Sept	78.55-78.55	75.80-75.90	78.50-78.40
Oct-Dec	81.90-81.15	78.45-78.70	81.20-80.50
Jan-Mar	85.50-85.80	81.10-81.20	83.90-85.80
Apl-Jne	8·.00-86.59	83.30-84.99	88.00

Sales: 576 (647) at 15 tonnes, 24 (92) at 5 tonnes.

Physical closing prices (buyer) were: Spot 63.50p (63.25p); Nov. 65.50p (same), Dec. 65.50p (same).

SOYABEAN MEAL

The London market opened around £1.00 lower on continued long liquidation, reports T. G. Roddick. Prices found scale-down commercial pricing, but continued to ease, closing with losses of £2.50.

	Yest'rday Close £ per tonne	+ or —	Business Done
October	120.90-27.0	—	128.50-128.00
December	132.20-32.4	—	134.60-132.00
February	135.30-35.5	—	138.00-135.19
April	138.50-36.7	—	155.10-137.00
June	135.50-37.6	—	—
August	136.60-37.9	—	137.19
October	134.70-35.9	—	135.00

Sales: 210 (——) lots of 100 tonnes.

SUGAR

LONDON DAILY PRICE (raw sugar): £365.00 (£355.00) a tonne cif for Sept.-Oct.-Nov. shipments. White sugar daily price was £368.00 (£359.00).

No. 4 Contract	Yest'rdays Close	Previous Close	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
Oct	371.50-72.00	362.00-62.25	372.00-53.00
Jan	394.00-95.00	384.25-84.75	395.50-91.50
Mch	498.00-06.25	397.00-97.25	407.50-396.5
May	403.60-04.00	395.50-95.00	405.00-385.0
Aug	388.50-88.75	382.90-82.19	390.00-84.00
Oct	389.00-69.25	003.00-65.85	370.50-68.00
Jan	358.45-59.55	351.50-52.55	349.00-57.00

Sales: 0,750 (11,781) lots of 50 tonnes.

NUMBER 2 CONTRACT—Close (in order buyer, seller, business, sales): Oct. 372.50, 372.60, 373.00-369.00, 131. Sales: 131 (39).

Tate and Lyle ex-refinery price for granulated basis white sugar was £342.8 (same) a tonne for home trade and £455 (£444) for export.

International Sugar Agreement (U.S. cents per pound fob and stowed Caribbean port). Prices for Sept. 24. Daily price 36.80 (36.17); 15-day average 34.74 (34.39).

Reports in the Russian Press expressing concern over the progress of the beet harvest provoked shortcovering, and prices quickly gained some £3 from overnight levels. The market remained very steady thereafter throughout the day in active trading conditions, reports C. Czarnikow.

WOOL FUTURES

SYDNEY GREASY WOOL—Close (in order: buyer, seller, business, sales). Australian cents per pound. Oct. 470.0, 470.5, 473.0-470.0, 40; Dec. 480.0, 481.0, 486.0-481.0, 142; March 497.0, 499.0, 502.0-496.5, 236; May 504.0, 504.5, 508.5-504.0, 88; July 509.0, 510.0, 514.0-508.5, 78; Oct. 504.0, 508.0, 510.0-504.0, 15; Dec. 508.5, 509.0, 514.0-508.5, 23; March 509.0, 514.5, 518.0-512.0, 5. Sales: 627.

POTATOES

LONDON POTATO FUTURES—The market was very quiet yesterday, drifting slightly, to close steady, reports Coley and Harper. Closing prices: Nov. 43.60 —20 (high 43.50, low 43.30); Feb. 51.80 +10 (untraded); April 59.90 —20 (high 59.80, low 59.70). Total traded: 18 (60) lots of 40 tonnes.

PRICE CHANGES

In tonnes unless otherwise stated.

	Sept. 25 1980	+ or —	Month ago
Metals			
Aluminium	£810/815	......	£819/815
Free Mkt	$1630/1680	—20	$1770/50
Copper			
Cas w'bar	£880	—17	£815.5
3 mths	£910.25	—16.25	£834.75
Cash Cathode	£851	—18	£785.5
3 mths	£880.0	—17	£810.5
Gold troy oz	$695.5	—13	$836.6
Lead Cash	£368.0	+1.6	£389.25
3 mnths	£388	+1.6	£376.75
Nickel	£3,205.00	......	£3,186.43
Freemkt(cif(lb	290/315c	......	290/315c
Platin'mtr'y oz	£208	......	£202
Free mkt	£283.90	—6.35	£272.60
Quicksilvert	$415/425	......	$410/420
Silver troy oz	891.30p	—12.5	676.0p
3 mths	925.50p	—90.5	702.90p
Tin Cash	£7,280	—20	£7,090
3 mths	£7,300	—25	£7,120
Tungsten22.04lb	$145.75	......	$144.74
Wolfrm 22.04 lbs	$131/154	......	$149/153
Zinc cash	£350	—5.5	£387.5
3 months	£347.75	—5	£338.25
Producers	$760	......	$760
Oils			
Coconut (Phil)	$685w	—5	$610r
Groundnut	‡	......	‡
Linseed Crude	£383t	+13	£307
Palm Malayan	606r	—01	$607.5t
Seeds			
Copra Philip	$390t	—	$420u
Soyabean(U.S.)	$343t	—2	$585.25t
Grains			
Barley Futures	£97.85	+0.45	£94.50
Maize			
French No3AM	‡	......	‡
Wheat			
No.1 Red Spg.	‡	......	‡
No2HardWint	‡	—	£95.75
Eng. Millingt.	‡	......	‡
Other commodities			
Cocoa ship't	£1,085	+5	£1,042
Future Dec.	£1020.3	+4.0	£981.5
CoffeeF't Nov.	£1,034.3	—12.5	£1,157
Cotton A.Index	99.50c	0.20	98.85c
Rubber (kilo)	63.50p	+0.20	65p
Sugar (Raw)	£365	+10	£310
Woolt'ps 64s kl.	293p kilo	+fl	207p kilo

‡ Unquoted. t Oct. u Sept.-Oct. v Nov. z Indicator. § Buyer. † Per

COTTON

LIVERPOOL—No spot or shipment sales were recorded yesterday, leaving the total for the week so far at 719 tonnes. Users were again disinclined to operate at all freely, and on all sides the movement of supplies was scrappy. *Minor interest* was shown in specialist African qualities.

MEAT/VEGETABLES

SMITHFIELD—Pence per pound. Beef: Scottish kille dsides 80.0 to 84.5; Eire hindquarters 68.0 to 72.0, forequarters 41.0 to 43.0. Veal: Dutch hinds and ends 100.0 to 106.0. Lamb: English *small* 51.0 to 57.0, *medium* 49.2 to 53.7, heavy 42.2 to 48.0; Scottish medium 46.0 to 54.0, heavy 40.0 to 50.0: Imported frozen: New Zealand PL 56.0 to 58.0, PM 49.0 to 50.0. Pork: English, under 100 lb 42.0 to 49.0, 100-120 lb 38.0 to 48.0, 120-160 lb 36.0 to 45.0. Grouse: Young, best (each) 220.0 to 260.0.

MEAT COMMISSION—Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 25. GB—Cattle 70.15p per kg liveweight (+0.73). UK—Sheep 106.66p per kg edcw (—4.90). GB—Pigs 65.18p per kg liveweight (—2.31).

COVENT GARDEN—Prices in sterling per package except where otherwise stated. Imported Produce: Oranges—Brazilian: 72/138 3.70-4.40. Lemons—Italian: 100/150 5.00: Spania: Trays 25/45 2.40-2.80, Boxes 5.50-8.00; Outspan: Trays 45/75 4.50-4.60: Turkish: 5.50-6.00; Cypriot: 90/105 8.50. Grapefruit—Dominican: 36/63 7.50; Honduras: 36/48 6.30-6.50. Apples—French: Golden Delicious (approx. 20 lb) 72 1.60-1.90, 84 1.60-1.70, (40 lb) 125/163 3.40-4.00, Granny Smith (20 lb) 72 2.60, 84 2.20; Spanish: Granny Smith (40 lb) 4.00-6.00; Dutch: Cox's Orange Pippins, jumble pack, per pound 0.14. Pears—French: Per 28 lb Williams 2.50-3.20; Italian: Per pound Williams 0.12-0.16; Dutch: Seurre Hardy per pound 0.09-0.10. *Peaches*—Italian: 1½ trays Hales 2.00-2.80. Others 1.80-2.80. Nectarines—Italian: 4.50-6.00. Plums—Italian: Boxes, Stanleys/Giant Prunes per pound 0.12. Grapes—Italian: Regina per pack 1.80-2.00. Wine per pound 0.14; Cypriot: 11 lb Rosaki 1.80, Alphonse 1.60, Sultana 1.20: Spanish: Napoleon 2.40, Almeria 2.00-2.20; French: Alphonse 2.50. Melons—Spanish: Yellow 10 kg 2.00-2.60, Green 7/11's 2.60-2.80. Bananas—Jamaican: 28 lb, *per pound* 0.19. Tomatoes—Jersey: 2.20-2.30: Dutch: 2.80: Guernsey: 2.40-3.00. Onions—Spanish: 2.20-2.80; Dutch: 2.30, Picklers 2.80. Cabbages—Dutch: White 2.80-3.00.

English Produce: Potatoes—Per bag, new 1.20-1.80. Mushrooms—Per pound 0.30-0.70. Apples—Per pound Howgate 0.06-0.07, Derby 0.05-0.06, Laxton 0.10, Tydeman's Early Worcester 0.05-0.08, Bramley's *0.08-0.10, Worcester Pearmain* 0.06-0.10, Cox's Orange Pippin 0.12-0.18. Pears—Per pound Williams 0.09, Conference 0.09-0.10. Plums—Per 12 lb Damsons 1.60-2.00, Marjorie Seedlings 2.00-2.40, Laxton Cropper 1.00-1.20. Strawberries—Per ½-lb 0.30. Cabbages—Per bag 1.40, White 2.60-2.80. Cauliflowers—Per 12 1.50-1.80. Beetroots—Per bag 1.00. Cucumbers—Trays 10/20 1.80-2.40. Tomatoes—*Per* 12 lb 2.20-2.60. Lettuce—Per 12 round 1.20, Cos 1.20, Webbs 1.20. Sprouts—Per pound 0.08. Corn Cobs—Each 0.10. Carrots—New crop 28 lb 0.70-1.20. Onions—Per bag 1.50-2.00, Picklers 2.60. Celery—Per pack 20/30 2.40, naked 12's 1.00-1.20. Capsicums—Per pound 0.25-0.30. Runner Beans—Per pound 0.15-0.20. Swedes—Per 28 lb Devon 0.70-0.80. Courgettes—Per pound 0.15. Cob Nuts—Per pound 0.35.

★

GRIMSBY FISH — Supply good, demand good. Prices at ship's side (unprocessed) per stone *Shelf* cod £5.00-£6.00, codlings £2.50-£4.20. Haddock (medium) £3.80-£4.60, (small) £1.00-£1.80. Plaice (large) £7.50, medium £4.20-£5.00, best small £2.40-£3.60. Skinned Dogfish (large) £6.00-£7.00, (medium) £4.00. Lemon Soles (large) £9.00, (medium) £8.00. Saithe £2.80-£3.20.

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.

THE LIVESTOCK COMPLEX underwent a technical correction in recording moderate gains. Precious metals were lower on profit-taking as the war news indicated increasing efforts for mediation, but rallied sharply on the close. Copper was also lower in sympathy with the precious metals, but recovered partially from its worst losses. Sugar was strong on continued reports of Soviet buying. Cotton sold off on heavy delieveries. Coffee continues to suffer from a lack of trade interest and drifted lower. Cocoa was inactive in a very narrow range. Grains and Soyabeans closed moderately lower, after the initial sharp setback found good trade and professional support, reported Heinold.

Copper—Sept. 96.90 (98.55), Oct. 96.90 (99.19), Nov. 98.00, Dec. 99.05, Jan. 99.85, March 101.40, May 102.95, July 104.30, Sept. 105.75, Dec. 108.10, Jan. 108.80, March 110.40, May 112.00, July 13.80. Sales: 7,400.

Potatoes (round whites)—Nov. 93.8 (94.5). March 134.0 (135.0). April 155.8. Sales: 2,389.

Sugar—No. 11: Oct. 38.10 (37.11), Jan. 40.45 (39.25), March 41.79, May 41.37, July 40.27, Sept. 38.39, Oct. 37.57, Jan. 35.12.

Tin—805.0-815.0 (805.0-822.0).

Lard—Chicago loose 22.50 (22.75). New York prime steam unavailable.

Live Cattle—Oct. 68.27 (68.40), Dec. 70.17 (70.07), Jan. 72.50, Feb. 72.05, April 74.05, June 75.10, Aug. 74.45, Oct. —, Dec. 74.00.

Live Hogs—Oct. 46.87 (46.02), Dec. 49.70 (48.92), Feb. 53.02, April 52.05, June 55.47, July 56.47, Aug. 55.77, Oct. 55.20, Dec. 54.15.

*Platinum—Sept. 725.0 (730.8), Oct. 730.9 (730.2), Nov. —, Jan. 761.0, April 791.0, May —, July 822.0, Oct. 852.0.

CHICAGO, Sept. 25.

Chicago Imm Gold—Oct. 708.5 (709.0), Dec. 728.5 (729.5), Jan. 737.5, March 758.0, April 767.0, June 785.0, July 794.0, Sept. 813.5.

*Gold—Sept. 707.5 (709.5), Oct 708.0 (710.0), Nov. 718.2, Dec. 728.5, Feb. 745.5, April 764.8, June 783.5, Aug. 802.6, Oct. 821.9, Dec. 841.7, Feb. 861.5, April 882.5, June 903.5.

‡‡Maize — Dec. 351¼-350¾ (353), March 362-362¾ (364½), May 367½-367¾, July 367, Sept. 357½-358, Dec. 350.

Pork Bellies—Feb. 66.77 (66.07), March 66.80 (66.02), May 68.22, July 68.75, Aug. 67.50.

Silver—Sept. 2205.0 (2277.0), Oct. 2285.0 (2277.0), Nov. ——, Dec. 2345.0, Feb. 2408.5, April 2469.5, June 2530.5, Aug. 2591.5, Oct. 2652.5, Dec. 2713.5, Feb. 2775.5, April 2837.5, June 2899.5, Aug. 2961.5, Oct. ——, Nov. ——, April ——.

†Soyabeans—Nov. 837-832 (852), Jan 856-855 (871½), March 879-875, May 890-888, July 890-890½, Aug. 881½, Sept. 848, Nov. 824-825.

Soyabean Oil—Oct. 25.90 (26.60), Dec. 26.55-26.60 (27.37), Jan. 28.60, March 27.40, May 27.78-27.80, July 28.10, Aug. 27.95-28.00, Sept. 27.95, Oct. 27.90, Dec. ——.

†Wheat—Dec. 508½-507½ (512¾), March 528½-528 (531¼), May 533½-534, July 528½-529, Sept. 537, Dec. ——.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 25. §Barley—Oct. 137.70 (138.30), Dec. 140.10 (140.70), March 141.40, May 142.20, July 141.10.

§Wheat—SCWRS 13.5 per cent protein content cif St. Lawrence 253.44 (254.24).

INDICES

FINANCIAL TIMES

Sept.24	Sept.23	Mnth ago	Year ago
281.92	281.86	273.06	288.00

(Base: July 1, 1952=100)

MOODY'S

Sept.24	Sept.25	M'nth ago	Year ago
1326.9	1347.3	1240.9	1137.6

(December 31, 1931=100)

DOW JONES

Dow Jones	Sept. 24	Sept. 25	Month ago	Year ago
Spot	462.01	467.71	443.3	412.42
F'tur s	482.76	482.26	462.38	410.26

(Average 1924-25-26=100)

REUTERS

Sept.25	Sept. 24	M'nth ago	Year ago
1761.4	1764.2	1723.4	1650.3

Base: September 18, 1931=100)

NZ row with Japan halts log shipments

By Dai Hayward in Wellington

FOLLOWING A dispute over price, New Zealand has suspended its log trade with Japan.

Japanese negotiators wanted a reduction in the price of NZ logs, but the New Zealand Government forest service and the country's main timber exporter, NZ Forest Products, refused to accept the lower price offered, and has suspended shipments.

In the year to June, 1980, New Zealand sent almost 1m cubic metres of logs to Japan.

Uneasy awaiting developments in Middle East conflict
Gold shares down again but Gilts and equities steady

Account Dealing Dates
Option

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Sept. 15	Sept. 25	Sept. 26	Oct. 6
Sept. 29	Oct. 9	Oct. 10	Oct. 20
Oct. 13	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Nov. 3

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9 am two business days earlier.

London stock markets again traded oervously yesterday uneasily awaiting the possibility of neighbouring Arab states becoming involved in the Iraq/Iran war which could seriously disrupt Gulf oil shipments. A constant stream of company trading statements allowed selected equities some distraction from the Middle East situation, while a modest reaction *in bullion occasioned fresh* profit-taking amoog South African Golds which again fell sharply.

Early io the afternoon, losses among heavier-priced Golds raoged to 3½ points but, oo revived American interest, the falls were finally reduced to around 2 points. Ooce again, the FT Gold Mines iodex sustained a sizeable fall to close 17.0 down at 500.0 for a three-day loss of nearly 59 poiots which more than wiped out last Monday's unprecedented rise of over 54 points.

FT-Actuaries

Several late movements in oil share prices on Wednesday were not included before calculation of the indices for that day. Recalculation incorporating the changes result in the September 24 oil share index being amended to 853.54, a high since compilation. The 500-share and All-share indices have also been amended—to 301.64 and 293.32 respectively.

Equities to benefit from news items included FT 30-share constituents, Vickers and Dunlop, with the latter attracting particularly good demand. In marked contrast, GKN were still unable to settle after the recent interim dividend shock and dire warning about prospects. On renewed selling, GKN fell to 178p before closing a net 7 lower at 180p. Other equity leaders were content to mark time around overnight levels and this was reflected in insignificant hourly changes in the FT 30-share index; the close was 1.1 up on balance at 484.4 after its run of five successive falls.

The pound's resilience again lent support to Gilt-edged securities but the small gains, to ¼, were partly eroded prior to the expected uochaoged announcement in Minimum Lending Rate at 12.30 pm. Specialist activity occurred in the sister Exchequer 12¼ per cent 1985 stocks but business otherwise was sparse. Despite today's call of £44 per cent, Treasury 11¾ per cent 1991 "A" improved ½ to 47. Several shorts in the 1983-85 area closed similarly better.

Confirmation that offer documents were on the way to Southern Rhodesian bondholders engendered further interest and selected bonds rose 10 points, including 3½ per cent 1967-69 at £109. Others to figure prominently were 3 per ceot 1971-73, at £102, and 2½ per ceot 1965-70, at £104, with gains of around 6 points.

The total number of deals dooe io the Traded options market increased to 1,394 from the previous day's 896. Virtually all of the ioterest was in four stocks as BP recorded 351 deals. Shell 293 aod Consolidated Gold Fields and Lonrho 282 aod 241 respectively.

A. Howden easier

A relatively steady market of late. Alexander Howden eased a penny to 103p following the satisfactory first-half profits and maintained divideod.

Small irregular price movements were the order of the day in a lethargic banking sector. FNFC attracted a reasonable ioterest in *Hire Purchases*, closing a fractioo better at 28p, after 29p.

Breweries trended a little easier, underlying seotiment not being helped by Press commeot on a broker's adverse circular. Bass shaded 2 more to 220p. Distillers continued the recent recovery movement with a fresh gain of 4 at 224p.

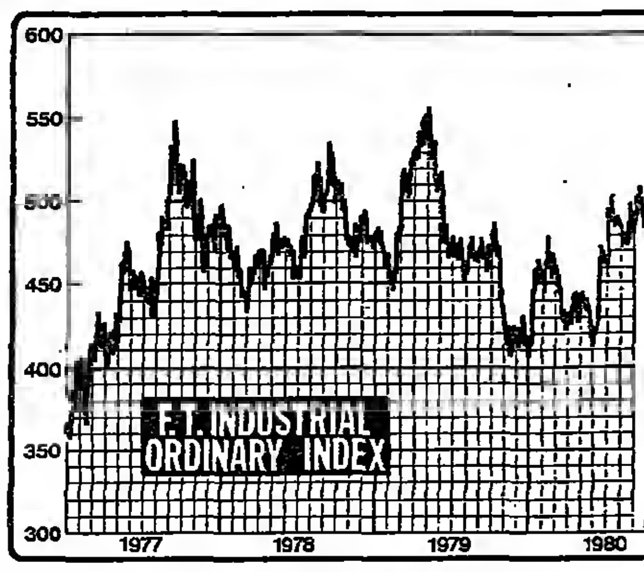
With the notable exception of London Brick, 4 down at 72p, after 71p, on news of short-time working and a 20 per cent cut in productioo, trading statements were again responsible for notable price movements in Buildings. Of those reporting, Brown and Jackson featured with a droo of 40 to a 1980 low of 80p on half-yearly profits well below market estimates. George Wimpey's Interim results were slightly disappointing and the price eased 2 to 89p, while Modern Engineers of Bristol shed a penny to 29p on the poor mid-term performance and Jayplant eased ½ to 8½p despite higher profits. By contrast, Aberdeen Construction and Galliford Brindley added 3 apiece to 139p and 65p respectively on good results, while Streeters of Godalming hardened a penny to 18p on the return to profitability at the half-way stage.

Amooz Chemicals, Allied Colloids put on 3 for a two-day gain of 6 to 129p and Laporte revived with an improvement of 4 to 101p.

House of Fraser up

A resurgeoce of speculative buying fuelled by revived hopes that Lonrho may launch a full-scale bid for the company helped House of Fraser feature the Store leaders with a rise of 4 to 132p. Elsewhere, MFI Furniture rebounded 7 to 62p in response to the chairman's optimistic remarks at the AGM, while Grattan Warehouses improved 2 more for a two-day leap of 18 to 68p on the better-than-expected interim results. Cornell Dresses, 74p, and Polly Peck, 108p, gained 2 aod 4 respectively, while Sumrie added 2 to 15p. Harris Queensway, on the other hand, fell 4 to 146p, after 144p, on adverse comment and Wilkinson *Warburton* relinquished 3 to 47p on the lower interim profits. Further consideration of the disappointing half-year figures clipped ¼ more from H. Samuel "A" to 158p. Lambert Howarth, 3 better at 28p, were an isolated firm feature in Shoes.

Electrical leaders fluctuated narrowly before ending a little easier on balance, Thorn EMI closing 2 off at 342p and Plessey 3 cheaper at 238p. Revived demand in a restricted market took Kode up to 350p before a close of only 5 higher on the day at 340p. Other firm spots included Webber Electrical, 4 up at 105p, and Cray, 2 higher at 68p. In contrast, Eurotherm remained on offer and gave up 8 more to 286p, while Farnell eased 7 to 338p and fresh profit-taking left Hawthorn Leslie 4 cheaper at 78p.



Vickers closed 3 higher at 133p *following interim results in line* with most expectations and the encouraging tenor of the statement on the outlook. Elsewhere in the Engineering leaders, GKN contrasted with a fall of 7 at 180p, after 178p, on a revival of selling after the recent poor half-yearly figures. Among secondary issues, the satisfactory half-yearly statement prompted a rise of 12 to 215p in APV, while Haden Carrier responded to the increased interim divideod and profits with a rise of 7 to 146p. Hunt and Moscrop closed a shade dearer at 10½p, the sharp fall in annual profits beiog outweighed by the maintained final dividend. On the other hand, Midland Industries came on offer aod gave up 4 to 70p, while smaller-priced issues to give ground included Johnson Firth Brown, 2 off at 25p, and *Brockhouse*, a similar amount lower at 28p.

In Foods, William Morrison put on 7 to 170p in respoose to the higher interim profits and the Board's cautiously optimistic statement on current trading, while Singlo added 2 to 19p on the good preliminary results. Elsewhere, Somportex firmed 10 to 250p, while J. N. Nichols (Vimto), a rising market of late on Press comment, added 5 more to 275p.

Rank Org. better

An unsettled market of late on adverse comment, Rank Organisation took a distinct turn for the better yesterday, rising 14 to 160p on talk that the group had unveiled a new xerox machine in the U.S. Beecham improved 4 to 157p on investment demand and Glaxo firmed 2 to 502p, *while other miscellaneous* industrial leaders merely held their overnight levels after an idle trade. Features among secondary issues were fairly plentiful with a lengthy list of trading statements providing the main ioterest. Office and Electronic fell 18 to 313p on disappointing interim results, while Hoskins and Horton also became a late dull counter, closing 10 down at 68p on the interim dividend omission and first half deficit. Reflecting the more-than halved interim dividend and first-half profits contraction, Brooks Watson dipped 3 to 19p, while New Equipment softened a penny to 13½p on the lower half-year earnings. Amalgamated Metal, however, rose 9 to 235p on better-than-expected mid-term profits, while Norvic Securities added 2 to 9p on the return to full-time working at a subsidiary. Aeronautical and General Instruments continued firmly at 650p, up 20, while Burco Dean rallied 5 to 21p and Hoover A improved 3 to 128p. Dom Holdings eased a penny to 55p; the price in yesterday's issue was incorrect.

Dunlop's interim profits exceeded market estimates and the price improved 3 to 82p. BL put on 3 for a two-day gain of 5 to 23p following publicity given to the company's concession to shareholders, while York Trailer revived with an improvement of a couple of pence to 21p. Among Garages, Hanger Investments and Charles Hurst shed a penny apiece to 37p and 54p respectively on interim results, while Manor National eased ½ to 77p on the half-year loss and dividend omission.

Among Properties, Brixton Estate shed 4 to 132p, after 130p, on the lower interim profits and proposed £15m rights issue, while profit-taking clipped 5 from recently firm Rush and Tompkins, 244p. Other issues improved in places, Land Securities hardening a couple of pence to 380p and Hammerson A 10 to 565p.

Burmah rise late

Oils enjoyed a reasonably active day's trading. Late demand accompanied by revived bid talk left Burmah 9 to the good at 189p, while KCA, up 7 more at 141p, continued to push ahead with the aid of buying for "new-time." Speculative interest was again shown in Ultramar which closed around the day's best with a rise of 13 at 443p. Tricentrol improved 8 to 378p, while Press mention stimulated interest in Clyde Petroleum which advanced 40 to 580p. Warrior, 410p, and Cambridge, 275p, gained 25p and 10 respectively. Among the leaders, BP closed 2 cheaper at 388p after the previous day's late flurry of speculative demand, but Shell edged up 6 to 428p.

In Overseas Traders, S. and W. Berisford found support at 196p, up 6, while Harrisons and Crosfield improved 12 to 812p.

Trusts again trended easier. Capital shares, which have been particularly good of late, again showed the bigger falls, Derby *reacting 9 to 273p and City and* Commercial 6 to 215p.

Helped by the maintained interim dividend, Tootal rose to 27p and closed 2 up at 26½p. Elsewhere in Textiles, Hugh Mackay rallied a penny to 30p following the previous day's fall of 3 on the interim pre-tax loss.

Bats held steady at 275p after the previous day's fall of 5 on the interim results.

Profit-taking in the wake of the satisfactory interim results clipped 4 from the recently firm Barlow Holdings to 96p.

Golds down again

Mining markets came under heavy selling pressure for the third successive day as the bullioo price dipped below $700 to close $13 lower at $695.50 an ounce.

South African Golds fell sharply with the Gold Mines index *losing 17.0 to 500.0*—a three-day decline of 58.9. The index is now back to the levels prevailing before the escalation of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

The market opeoed easier in quiet trading but met persistent London profit-taking and end-account selling which intensified throughout the morning.

However, following the afternoon bullion fix renewed American buying came into the market and earlier falls were halved in many places.

Among heavyweights, West Driefontein dropped £2½ to £46, after £45, Randfontein £2 to £40½, after £39½, Vaal Reefs, £1½ to £39½, after £38½, and Western Deep £1½ to £30, after £29. East Driefontein fell £1½ to £14, after £13½.

South African Financials mirrored Golds with "Amgold" finally £1½ down at £55, after £53, and GFSA a point off at £43, after £42½.

London Financials encountered small selling throughout the day.

Charter slipped 7 to 273p, Gold Fields 8 to 642p and Tanks 4 to 338p.

In Platinums, Impala rallied from 530p to close 10 weaker on balance at 545p while Rustenburg ended 6 easier at 337p, after 330p.

Australian Golds came under pressure. Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie relinquished 30 to 545p, Poseidon 12 to 345p and North Kalgurli 6 more to 106p.

Among the more speculative Golds, Samantha closed 10 down at 88p and Otter 6 off at 74p.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Sept. 25	Sept. 24	Sept. 23	Sept. 22	Sept. 19	Sept. 18	A year ago
Government Secs	70.24	70.91	70.19	70.24	70.79	71.19	72.55
Fixed Interest	71.51	71.70	71.70	71.84	72.09	71.97	72.59
Industrial Ord.	484.4	483.3	485.1	487.3	494.4	497.7	476.0
Gold Mines	500.0	517.0	542.5	558.9	604.8	487.7	247.1
Ord. Div. Yield	7.56	7.54	7.51	7.49	7.40	7.35	6.61
Earnings, Yld. % (full)	17.10	17.13	17.07	17.01	16.87	17.38	17.46
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	7.16	7.15	7.17	7.20	7.27	7.02	7.00
Total Bargains	20,127	20,806	22,444	21,813	19,646	20,602	18,550
Equity turnover £m.	—	132.49	150.92	138.29	116.27	150.15	97.91
Equity bargains total	—	16,346	17,039	17,189	14,680	17,152	13,085

10 am 484.4. 11 am 485.0. Noon 483.1. 1 pm 482.3. 2 pm 482.8. 3 pm 483.9.

Latest Index 01-246 8026.

*Nil=6.86.

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
Govt Secs.	72.54 (21/7)	63.85 (7/3)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	74.08 (24/7)	64.70 (10/3)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	508.9 (12/9)	406.9 (3/1)	558.6 (4/5/79)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	558.9 (22/9)	965.6 (18/6)	558.9 (22/9/80)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Sept. 25	Sept. 24
—Daily		
Gilt Edged	79.6	95.0
Industrials	89.3	105.6
Speculative	113.4	146.6
Totals	66.3	89.6
5-day Avrge.		
Gilt Edged	89.8	95.4
Industrials	102.6	110.3
Speculative	117.1	108.0
Totals	77.7	81.3

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1980

The following shares quoted in the Share Information Service yesterday attained new Highs and Lows for 1980.

NEW HIGHS (26)

CORPORATION LOANS (1)
Bath 11¼pc 1985

AMERICANS (5)
ASA; Rep. N. Y. Corp.; Esmark; Shell Oil; Houston Oil

BANKS (1)
Smith St. Aubyn

BUILDINGS (1)
Barratt Devs.

ELECTRICALS (2)
Kode Int.; Webber

ENGINEERING (1)
Chemning

INDUSTRIALS (4)
Aero. & General; Standard Ind.; St. George's Laundry; Third Mile Inv.

MOTORS (1)
BL

TRUSTS (3)
Oil & Assoc. Inv.; Smith Brothers; Viking Resources

OIL AND GAS (4)
KCA; Ultramar; Sovereign Oil; Warrior Resources

OVERSEAS TRADERS (1)
Berisford (S. & W.)

MINES (2)
Gopeng Cons.; Killinghall

NEW LOWS (33)

BEERS (2)
Clark (Matthew); Guinness

BUILDINGS (2)
Brown & Jackson; Sheffield Brick

STORES (1)
Steinberg

ENGINEERING (9)
Amal. Power; Johnson & F. Brown; Brockhouse; Record Ridgway; Bullough; Sykes (Henry); Butterfield Harvey; Tecalemit; GKN

INDUSTRIALS (15)
Aero Needles; Elbar Inds.; Alpine Hldgs.; Gestetner "A"; British Vita; Hoskins & Horton; Brooks Watson; Metal Closures; Centreway; Moss (Robert); Dom Hldgs.; Rocioware; Dunhill (Alfred); Scottish Heritable; Doole Int.

INSURANCE (1)
Edin. General Ins.

PAPER (1)
Oxley Printing

TEXTILES (2)
Hicking Pentecost; Mollfort

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	36	6	54
Corpns. Dom. and Foreign Bonds	11	12	42
Industrials	180	241	871
Financial and Prop.	74	139	282
Oils	15	13	27
Plantations	2	9	13
Mines	17	91	39
Others	32	42	51
Totals	360	553	1,529

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These Indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS. Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section

		Thur., Sept. 25, 1980 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Wed., Sept. 24 Index No.	Tues., Sept. 23 Index No.	Mon., Sept. 22 Index No.	Fri., Sept. 19 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.
1	CAPITAL GOODS (171)	282.72	−0.4	15.60	5.83	7.80	283.79	285.79	287.53	291.81	241.63
2	Building Materials (28)	252.69	−0.2	18.51	6.76	6.41	253.22	254.56	255.41	259.77	236.12
3	Contracting, Construction (27)	422.09	−0.8	22.08	5.86	5.38	425.57	427.22	428.07	434.48	383.50
4	Electricals (17)	867.63	−0.4	11.25	3.07	10.93	871.13	876.77	881.41	894.43	626.76
5	Engineering Contractors (11)	338.72	−0.3	18.28	7.67	6.98	339.68	342.13	345.47	353.68	329.62
6	Mechanical Engineering (72)	177.03	+0.3	16.38	7.54	7.45	176.47	177.94	179.22	182.59	161.57
8	Metals and Metal Forming (16)	157.89	−1.8	18.49	10.27	6.73	160.84	162.85	165.19	165.10	157.77
	CONSUMER GOODS										
11	(DURABLE) (49)	238.51	−0.1	15.49	5.28	8.82	238.74	240.02	241.21	244.87	240.38
12	Lt. Electronics, Radio, TV (14)	366.90	−0.5	12.98	3.77	11.69	368.63	370.99	373.23	378.25	346.87
13	Household Goods (14)	88.07	+0.5	26.13	11.18	4.80	87.63	87.64	87.48	88.15	142.33
14	Motors and Distributors (21)	98.24	+1.2	22.36	9.52	5.15	97.12	97.39	97.61	99.85	111.21
	CONSUMER GOODS										
21	(NON DURABLES) (172)	240.28	+0.1	17.14	6.73	7.05	239.92	241.32	242.15	246.56	240.40
22	Breweries (14)	287.77	−0.4	15.80	6.40	7.39	288.97	291.14	293.83	295.45	291.69
23	Wines and Spirits (5)	323.60	+1.5	18.91	6.29	6.25	318.92	316.86	314.64	317.29	331.95
24	Entertainment, Catering (17)	341.34	−0.3	16.98	6.55	7.25	342.30	345.21	347.24	350.86	320.19
25	Food Manufacturers (22)	219.97	+0.1	18.24	6.90	6.46	219.86	221.08	221.38	223.96	213.83
26	Food Retailing (13)	392.93	+0.1	11.93	3.96	9.95	392.58	395.89	394.54	399.48	313.03
32	Newspapers, Publishing (12)	446.73	+0.2	21.03	7.15	6.36	446.03	447.43	447.14	448.56	421.13
33	Packaging and Paper (15)	129.54	−0.1	27.28	10.06	4.27	129.69	128.64	127.09	129.52	132.66
34	Stores (45)	236.82	+0.2	13.00	5.31	10.04	236.26	238.40	239.13	242.93	240.79
35	Textiles (21)	119.50	+0.7	26.22	12.89	4.65	118.71	118.22	118.81	120.35	152.58
36	Tobaccos (3)	219.90	+0.4	26.10	10.59	4.36	218.92	221.50	225.64	231.95	243.86
37	Toys and Games (5)	24.42	+0.1	9.21	15.61	25.11	24.38	23.85	24.29	24.67	68.45
41	OTHER GROUPS (99)	223.36	+0.5	15.76	7.00	7.60	222.16	223.54	224.69	227.43	210.13
42	Chemicals (16)	308.44	+0.3	17.49	7.88	6.68	307.50	308.64	310.79	313.29	296.89
43	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	238.70	+1.3	10.51	5.80	11.77	235.68	237.26	237.63	243.21	236.48
44	Office Equipment (6)	100.29	+5.3	20.37	8.27	5.73	95.26	97.28	101.34	103.76	123.61
45	Shipping (10)	571.15	−0.6	13.35	6.38	9.15	574.76	575.88	577.43	580.50	455.37
46	Miscellaneous (60)	278.48	−0.1	16.64	6.69	7.31	278.71	280.66	280.73	283.53	246.17
49	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (491)	254.38	+0.1	16.29	6.44	7.47	254.19	255.77	256.96	260.55	240.86
51	Oils (9) ●	858.05	+0.5	28.20	6.16	3.95	853.54	843.58	840.68	812.17	698.94
59	500 SHARE INDEX ●	302.16	+0.2	18.92	6.38	6.24	301.64	302.32	303.16	304.31	277.05
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (118)	249.92	+0.4	—	5.24	—	248.98	251.49	251.55	254.90	197.06
62	Banks (6)	250.41	+0.4	40.81	6.72	2.93	249.43	250.37	250.29	252.60	229.33
63	Discount Houses (10)	301.25	−0.1	—	5.89	—	301.62	301.55	299.96	301.45	251.33
64	Hire Purchase (5)	221.18	+0.8	11.22	4.56	12.03	219.46	221.29	222.95	227.62	181.58
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	261.56	+0.5	—	5.03	—	260.19	263.74	265.20	267.20	164.64
66	Insurance (Composite) (9)	177.27	+0.6	—	6.40	—	176.24	178.34	178.48	182.08	138.97
67	Insurance Brokers (9)	337.23	−0.3	13.74	6.86	9.97	338.28	344.74	348.70	358.68	279.60
68	Merchant Banks (12)	147.00	−0.1	—	4.93	—	147.09	147.40	146.54	148.23	100.91
69	Property (45)	459.37	+0.3	3.09	2.60	45.14	457.83	464.61	462.93	468.96	365.80
70	Miscellaneous (12)	152.56	+0.7	15.50	6.14	8.18	151.43	152.48	152.52	153.49	123.98
71	Investment Trusts (109)	276.82	−0.4	—	5.25	—	277.94	281.64	281.95	282.92	218.47
81	Mining Finance (3)	272.15	−1.3	12.98	4.81	9.19	275.72	275.66	274.69	265.64	140.95
91	Overseas Traders (20)	456.86	+0.9	11.01	6.46	10.95	452.74	458.13	457.90	454.22	346.68
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX (750) ●	293.79	+0.2	—	6.05	—	293.32	294.69	295.25	296.50	254.84

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES

	British Government	Thur., Sept. 25	Day's change %	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1980 to date
1	Under 5 years	106.92	+0.13	—	7.62
2	5-15 years	112.30	+0.06	0.13	9.46
3	Over 15 years	118.35	+0.05	0.16	9.71
4	Irredeemables	131.39	+0.34	—	9.02
5	All stocks	112.28	+0.08	0.09	8.79

FIXED INTEREST YIELDS
British Govt. Av. Gross Red.

			Thur., Sept. 25	Wed., Sept. 24	Year ago (approx.)
1	Low Coupons	5 years	11.70	11.71	10.10
2		15 years	11.69	11.70	10.65
3		25 years	11.69	11.70	11.19
4	Medium Coupons	5 years	13.01	13.05	12.19
5		15 years	13.27	13.26	12.26
6		25 years	13.07	13.07	12.33
7	High Coupons	5 years	13.15	13.19	12.54
8		15 years	13.55	13.55	12.71
9		25 years	13.27	13.27	12.61
10	Irredeemables		11.28	11.31	11.04

		Thur., Sept. 25 Index No.	Yield %	Wed. Sept. 24	Tues. Sept. 23	Mon. Sept. 22	Friday Sept. 19	Thurs. Sept. 18	Wed. Sept. 17	Tues. Sept. 16	Year ago (approx)
15	20-yr. Red. Deb & Loans (15)	53.97	†15.73	53.95	54.02	54.02	54.04	53.51	53.47	53.44	57.64
16	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	51.78	13.07	51.78	51.79	51.79	51.79	51.77	51.68	51.68	50.57
17	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	68.15	13.19	68.18	68.24	68.24	68.24	67.89	67.92	67.92	29.42

† Redemption yield. Highs and lows record base dates and values and constituent changes are published in Saturday issues. A list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, the Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY, price 15p, by post 25p. ● Corrected indices for September 24.

ACTIVE STOCKS

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1980 high	1980 low
BP	25p	9	388	−2	412	320
De Beers Defd.	R0.05	8	496	−14	553	368
Lonrho	25p	8	108	+2	111	72
Ultramar	25p	8	443	+16	443	206
Charter Cons.	2p	7	273	−7	280	134
LASMO	25p	7	740	−5	830	337
Distillers	50p	6	224	+4	235	184
Leslie Gold	R0.65	6	195	—	212	116
Premier Cons.	5p	6	94	—	99	36
RTZ 9½pcCnv.Uns. Ln. 1995-2000	Nil	6	£11½pm	−1	£15pm	£11pm
Shell Transport	25p	6	428	+6	432	314
Beecham	25p	5	157	+4	140	108
GKN	£1	5	180	−7	279	178
Plessey	50p	5	238	−3	265	108
Rank Org.	25p	5	160	+14	228	146

OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Sept. 22	Oct. 3	Dec. 18	Dec. 29
Oct. 6	Oct. 17	Jan. 8	Jan. 19
Oct. 20	Oct. 31	Jan. 22	Feb. 2

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Money was given for the call of Raglan Property, Montague L. Meyer, KCA, Rustenburg, Tesco, Poseidon, Lonrho, Town and City, John Brown, Rank Organisation, First National Finance, Aran Energy, Charterhouse Petroleum, UDT, Burmah Oil, Bats, Ultramar, Coral Leisure and Premier Consolidated. First National Finance were dealt in for the put while double options were arranged in Grattan Warehouses, First National Finance and Vaal Reefs.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price p:	+ or −	Div.	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
160	F.P.	—	115	91	††Baker Electronics 10p	102	......	b3.85	2.0	5.4	18.8
‡‡	F.P.	—	235	215	††Brint Invs.	280	......				
‡‡	F.P.	—	388	338	BP Restricted Trans.	388	+6	17.5	4.7	6.4	3.6
68	F.P.	8/9	93	72	Charterh'se Petrol'm	93	+2	b1.09	4.0	1.7	21.8
80	F.P.	—	80	76	††H'sk'th M'rcyc's 50p	77	−1	—	—	—	—
160	F.P.	—	154	133	††Marinex 10p	148	−2	—	—	—	—
::	F.P.	—	£16⅝	£16	Mitel Corp.	£16	−¼	—	—	—	—
67	F.P.	—	143	92	††NRE	135	−5	—	—	—	—
157	F.P.	—	85	73	††Utd. Electronic 20p	79	+1	b1.57	2.2	6.8	6.6

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue Price £	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price £	+ or −
‡‡	F.P.	10/10	114p	107p	Foseco Minsep 8½% Cnv Red Cum 2nd Prf	114p	......
‡‡	F.P.	10/10	110	102	Do 10% Conv Uns Ln 1995	109	......
‡	F.P.	30/10	98½	97	Newcastle & Gateshead Water 8½% RdP	98½	......
‖	Nil	31/10	17pm	7pm	Queens Moat 10% Cons Uns Ln '99-91	7pm	−1
‖	Nil	—	15pm	11pm	R.T.Z. 9½% Conv. Uns. Ln. '95-2000	11½pm	−1
¶	Nil	—	15pm	7½pm	Western Deep 12% Uns Deb. '86-95 Units	9½pm	+⅞
‡	£10	30/11	12¼	11½	York Waterworks 9½% Red. Pref. 1985	12	......

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price p:	Amount Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date ●	Latest Renunc. Date E	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing price p:	+ or −
300	F.P.	22/9	17/10	356	344	Blue Circle	352	......
105	Nil	3/10	7/11	16pm	11pm	British Vita	11pm	−1
A$350	Nil	—	—	158pm	140pm	CRA	158pm	+3
30	Nil	29/9	20/10	11pm	2pm	Laganvale Estates 10p	9pm	−1
340	Nil	6/10	14/11	125pm	120pm	M. L. Hldgs.	120pm	......
120	F.P.	16/8	26/9	164	144	McKay Secs.	160	......
220	F.P.	5/9	14/11	300	286	Mercantile House	290	......
14	F.P.	5/9	5/10	21	16	Moorgate Mercantile	20	......
260	Nil	—	—	100pm	90pm	††Pict Petroleum	95pm	−5
c.$46	Nil	—	—	36pm	35pm	Royal Bank of Canada	35pm	−1
13	F.P.	19/9	10/10	16	15	Spence rGears	15	......

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. b Figures based on prospectus estimate. g Assumed dividend and yield. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. § Placing price to public. pt Pence unless otherwise indicated. ¶ Issued by tender. ‖ Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights." ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation, merger or takeover. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ✦ Warrants. †† Unlisted security. † Dealings under special rule. ‡‡ London listing.

UNIT TRUST SERVICE

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS—contd.

Gartmore Invest. Ltd. Ldn. Agts.
2, St. Mary Axe, London, EC3. 01-283 3531

Gartmore Fund Managers (C.I.) Ltd. (a)(h)
41, Broad St., St. Helier, Jersey. 0534-73741
Gilt Fund (Jersey) 96.0 101.0 ..... 12.65

Gartmore Fund Managers (Far East) Ltd. (a)(h)
1503 Hutchison Hse., 10 Harcourt Rd., H. Kong
Australian Tst. US$16.138 17.386 ..... —
HK & Pac. U. Tst. HK$5.924 6.393 ..... 2.60
Japan Fd. US$17.86 19.214 ..... 0.60
N. American Tst. US$21.929 23.607 +0.337 1.00
Intl. Bond Fund US$12.04 12.763 ..... 9.30

Gartmore Fund Managers (IoM) (a)
P.O. Box 32, Douglas, IoM. 0624 23911
Gartmore Intl. Inc. 21.9 23.3 +0.6 13.40
Gartmore Intl. Grth. 114.3 121.6 ..... 7.00

Guinness Mahon Fd. Mgrs. (Guernsey)
PO Box 188, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. 0481 23506.
Intl. Fund $21.30 21.99 +0.64 —
Prices at Sept. 25. Next dealing Oct. 10.

Hambro Pacific Fund Mgmt. Ltd.
2110, Connaught Centre, Hong Kong
Far East Sept. 17 HK$20.08 21.17 ..... —
Japan Fund Sept. 17 US$8.98 9.44 ..... —

Hambros Fd. Mgrs. (C.I.) Ltd.
P.O. Box 86, Guernsey. 0481-26521
Capital Reserve Fd. £12.13 12.15 ..... 0.23
C.I. Fund 194.4 207.1 ..... 3.15
Special Sits. Fund 62.2 64.28 ..... 2.66
Intnl. Bond US$104.08 108.12 ..... 8.58
Int. Equity US$17.12 17.65 ..... 0.85
Int. Svgs. 'A' $US 1.19 1.23 ..... —
Int. Svgs. 'B' 1.76 1.81 ..... —
Prices on Sept. 24. Next dealing Oct. 1.
†Excludes initial charge on small orders.

Henderson Admin. (Guernsey) Ltd.
7 New St., St. Peter Port, Guernsey 0481 26541/2
American O/S (USc) 122.8 129.3 ..... —

Henderson Baring Group
801, Gloucester, 11, Pedder, Hongg Kong
Japan Fd. Sept. 17 US$22.71 23.69 ..... —
Japan Tech. Sept. 22 US$12.809 ..... —
Malay Sings. Sept. 23 14.917 +0.004 —

[illegible]

Lloyds Bank International, Geneva
P.O. Box 438, 1211 Geneve 11 (Switzerland)
Lloyds Int. Growth SF570.00 609.00 ..... 0.60
Lloyds Int. Income SF289.50 300.50 ..... 6.00

M & G Group
Three Quays, Tower Hill EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588

[illegible]

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Ltd.
120, Cheapside, EC2. 01-588 4000
Am. Inc. It. Sept. 18 US$18.10 ..... 1.93
Asian Fd. Sept. 15 US$24.02 24.88 ..... 2.51
Ch'side $ Sept. 24 US$20.15 — +0.12 1.99
Darling Fd. Sept. 25 A$3.68 3.92 −0.01 4.20
Japan Fund Sept. 18 US$8.54 9.18 ..... 1.83

[illegible]

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Abbey Unit Tst. Mngrs. (a)
72-80, Gatehouse Rd., Aylesbury 0296 5941

Abbey Amer. Gth. Tst.	53.7	57.7	+0.5	2.57
Abbey Capital	43.0	46.5	+0.1	5.27
Abbey General	53.9	58.2	+0.2	5.40
Abbey Gilt & F.I. Tst.	112.6	118.5	.....	11.64
Abbey Income	34.2	37.0	.....	9.56
Abbey W'Wide Bd Tst.	92.2	97.4	+0.2	4.86
Abbey Inv. Tst. Fnd.	47.3	51.1	.....	4.97
Equitas Prog. Tst.	82.5	89.2	+0.2	4.83

Allen Harvey & Ross Unit Tst. Mngrs.
45, Cornhill, London EC3V 3PB. 01-623 6314.

AHR Gilt Trust	92.0	96.8	+0.1	12.64

Allied Hambro Ltd. (a)(g)
Hambro Hse., Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.
01-588 2851 or Brentwood (0277) 211459

Balanced Funds

Allied 1st	86.2	92.2	+0.1	4.82
Brit. Inds. Fund	77.2	82.6	+0.2	6.30
Growth & Income	48.4	51.8	.....	5.37
Elect. & Ind. Dev.	43.1	46.1	.....	5.31
Allied Capital	92.9	99.4	+0.4	4.48
Hambro Fund	133.0	142.3	+0.2	6.30
Hambro Acc. Fund	170.5	182.4	+0.5	4.93

Income Funds

High Yield Fd.	64.3	68.8	+0.1	10.03
High Income	76.0	81.3	-0.2	7.81
A. H. Eq. Inc.	44.6	47.7	-0.1	7.61
Govt. Secs.	26.3	27.0	+0.1	11.78

International Funds

Confederation Funds Mgt. Ltd. (a)
50, Chancery Lane, WC2A 1HE. 01-242 0282

Growth Fund	68.8	72.4	.....	4.11

For Cosmopolitan see Cloudston Fund Managers.

Craigmount Unit Tst. Mgrs. Ltd.
Bucklersbury, London EC4N 8BO. 01-248 4984

High Income	36.4	39.2	+0.3	11.36
North American	56.2	60.5	+0.3	2.65
Canadian Exempt*	61.7	65.2	.....	3.62
Canadian Trust	62.6	67.6	+1.0	2.66
Mid Mount High Inc.*	48.5	51.3	.....	9.41
Recovery	58.1	63.2	+0.3	6.83
Gilt Trust	44.3	46.3	.....	12.50

*Weekly dealing day Wednesday.

Crescent Unit Tst. Mngrs. Ltd. (a)(g)
4 Melville Cres., Edinburgh 3 031-226 4931

Cres. Amer. Fd.	35.3	38.1	+0.2	0.98
Cres. Internat'l.	69.1	74.6	+0.6	2.35
Cres. High. Dist.	41.9	45.3	-0.1	10.79
Cres. Reserves	50.4	54.4	+0.1	5.51
Cres. Tokyo	22.6	24.4	+0.3	0.77

Dartington Unit Trust Mngt. Ltd.
Bridge Chambers, Barnstaple, Devon 0271 76324

Total Perf. Unit Tst.	24.1	25.9	.....	12.29

Discretionary Unit Fund Managers
Bilbao Hse., 36/38 New Broad St., EC2M 1NU. 01-638 4485

Disc. Inc. Sept. 12	225.5	240.5	.....	5.48

E. F. Winchester Fund Mngt. Ltd.
44, Bloomsbury Square, WC1A 2RA 01-623 8893

Great Winchester	17.3	19.1	.....	7.40
Gt. Winchester O'seas	23.8	26.4	.....	4.22

Emson & Dudley Tst. Mngmnt. Ltd.
20a Albemarle St., W1. 01-493 3211

Emson Dudley Tst.	82.1	88.3	.....	6.00

Equity & Law Un. Tr. M.♥ (a)(b)(c)

M & G Group
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ.

INSURANCE PROPERTY BONDS

Providence Capital Life Assc. Co. Ltd.
30 Uxbridge Road, W12 8PG. 01-749 9111

Sel. Mkt. Fd. Cap.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Sel. Mkt. Fd. Std.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pension Equity	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Pension Fxd. Int.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Deposit Fd. Acc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Equity Fd. Cap.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Equity Fd. Acc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Fxd. Int. Cap.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Fxd. Int. Acc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Intnl. Cap.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Intnl. Acc.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Managed Fd. Cap.	[illegible]	[illegible]	.....	—
Managed Fd. Acc.	[illegible]	60.	.....	—
Property Fd. Cap.	[illegible]	73	.....	—
Property Fd. Acc.	[illegible]	79	.....	—

Provincial Life Assurance Co. Ltd.
222 Bishopsgate, EC2. 01-247 6533

Prov. Managed Fd.	151.8	159.8	+0.5	—
Prov. Cash Fd.	124.9	131.5	.....	—
Gilt Fund	135.0	142.2	-2.2	—
Property Fund	129.8	136.7	.....	—
Equity Fund	140.9	148.4	+0.8	—
Fxd. Int. Fund	115.0	121.1	+0.4	—

Prudential Pensions Limited♦
Holborn Bars, EC1N 2NH. 01-405 9222

Equity Fd. Sep. 19	35.96	37.07	.....	—
Fixed Int. Sept. 19	24.00	24.32	.....	—
Prop. Fd. Sept. 19	40.83	42.09	.....	—

Reliance Mutual
Tunbridge Wells, Kent. 0892 22271

Rel. Prop. Bds.		292.3	.....	—

Rothschild Asset Management
St. Swithins Lane, London EC4. 01-626 4356

N.C. Prop.	156.2	166.2	.....	—

Next sub. period Sept. 30/Oct. 15

Welfare Insurance Co. Ltd.♥
Winslade Park, Exeter. 0392-52155

Moneymaker Fd.		120.6	.....	—

For other funds, please refer to The London & Manchester Group.

Windsor Life Assur. Co. Ltd.
Royal Albert Hse., Sheet St., Windsor 68144

Investor Units	94.4	99.3	.....	—
Accum. Pen. Units	140.4	147.7	.....	—
Flex. Inv. Growth	121.5	127.9	.....	—
Future Ass'd Growth	26.0(A)	58.0(B)	.....	—
Ret. Ass'd Pen.		£31.89	.....	—

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS FUNDS

Albany Fund Management Limited
P.O. Box 73, St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 73933

Albany S Fd. (CI)	US$19.06	161.01	.....	1.38

Nett dealing Sept. 26.

Alexander Fund
37, rue Notre-Dame, Luxembourg.

Alexander Fund		US$14.00	.....	—

Net asset value Sept. 22.

Allen Harvey & Ross Inv. Mgt. (C.I.)
1 Charing Cross, St. Helier, Jsy., C.I. 0534-73741

AHR Dollar Inc. Fd.	US$10.26	10.27	.....	11.17
AHR Gilt Edg. Fd.	£12.10	12.15	.....	13.17

Continued on previous page

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

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CORPORATION LOANS

COMMONWEALTH AND AFRICAN LOANS

1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Price £	+ or −	Yield Int.	Yield Red.
91	82¼	Aust. 5½pc '81-82	88¾xd	......	6.19	13.88
85¼	72½	Do. 6pc 1981-83	84	......	7.30	13.02
67	58	N.Z. 7½pc 1988-92	65¾	......	11.31	13.38
01½	72	Do. 7½pc '23-86	80¾	......	9.53	27.09
96¾	88	Sth. Africa 9½pc '79-81	96¾	......	10.22	16.59
160	95	S. Rhod. 2½pc Non-Ass.	104	+6	—	29.86
169	133	Do. 6pc '78-81 N.-As.	150	+5	—	24.76

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

Financial

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

AMERICANS

CANADIANS

1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Gross	C'vr	Yld Gr's
22⅞	12¾	Hollinger $5	19⅝	−⅛	$2.20	—	4.5
11⅞	850p	Hudson's Bay II	880pxr	......	$1.20	—	5.2
14⅛	925p	Hud.B.Oil G. $2½	11¾xd	+¼	h57½	—	1.9
21⅞	13⅛	Imperial Oil	14⅛	+⅛	$1.40	—	3.6
14	855p	Inco	19⅜	−⅛	72c	—	2.6
565p	425p	Inl. Nat. Gas $1	520p	+10	$1.00	—	7.3
495p	250p	Massey Ferg.	255p	−10	—	—	—
200p	97p	Place Gas $1	117p	+20	—	—	—
14⅞	10½	Rio Algom	13⅝	......	$1.50	—	4.2
*19¾	14⅛	Royal Bk.Can. $2.	19⅜xr	......	$2.56	—	5.0
25⅞	15⅞	Seagram Co. C$1	25⅛	......	$US1.10	—	1.9
12	890p	Tor. Dom. Bk. $1	11	......	$2.44	—	4.9
10½	790p	Trans Can. Pipe	800p	+10	$1.16	—	5.5

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Australian

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
26	21	Acmex 50c	26	......	—	—	—
24	12	ACM 20c	20	+1	—	—	—
138	52½	Bond Corp.	138	......	h02.8c	2.2	1.0
156	88	Bougainville I Kina	130	−4	hQ26.2c	1.8	10.2
*347	221	CRA 50c	310xr	−4	tQ15c	2.1	8.5
25	11½	Canada Northwest	18	−½	—	—	—
42	8	Carr Boyd 20c	38	−2	—	—	—
£38	£15¼	Central Pacific	£36¼	+½	—	—	—
41	17	Cultus Pacific N.L.	30	+2	—	—	—
52	20	Eagle Corp. 10c	42	......	—	—	—
28	15¾	Endeavour 20c	27	......	—	—	—
600	175	G. M. Kalgoorlie 25c	545	−30	Q13c	ϕ	1.2
46	15	Great Eastern	24½	......	—	—	—
245	130	Hampton Areas 10p	235xd	−10	h2.25	2.4	1.4
204	30	Haoma Gold N.L.	166	+2	—	—	—
62	15	Intl. Mining	56	−2	—	—	—
720	80	Leichardt Expln.	160	+10	—	—	—
30	7	Metals Energy	21	−1	—	—	—
91	41	Metals Ex. 50c	63	−3	Q3c	ϕ	1.9
250	150	M.I.M. Hldgs. 50c	228xc	−2	hQ24c	ϕ	5.5
21	7	Minefields Expl. 25c	19	......	—	—	—
155	60	Mount Lyell 25c	114	......	Q15c	ϕ	7.1
28	15	Newmetal 20c	18	......	—	—	—
55	13	Nickelore N.L.	39	+2	—	—	—
214	137	North B. Hill 50c	206	−4	Q18c	ϕ	4.5
119	44½	Nth. Kalgurli	107	−6	—	—	—
165	90	Nth. Mining Corp.	120	......	—	—	—
184	24	N. West Mining N.L.	156	+8	—	—	—
235	144	Oakbridge $A1	185	......	Q12c	4.7	3.4
153	70	Otter N. L.	133	−2	—	—	—
240	128	Pacific Copper	198	−2	—	—	—
465	255	Pancont'l 25c	375	+10	—	—	—
78	42	Paringa M&Ex 5p	63	−2	—	—	—
575	335	Peko-Wallsend 50c	545	......	tQ17.5c	ϕ	1.7
230	140	Selcast A	154	......	—	—	—
£14¼	575	Southern Pacific	£13¾	+⅛	—	—	—
100	31	Swan Resources 20c	94	−6	—	—	—
34	8	West Coast 25c	24½	+2½	—	—	—
313	177	Westn. Mining 50c	295	−5	Q14c	ϕ	2.4
30	10	Westmex	18	......	—	—	—
108	56	Whim Creek 20c	108	−2	—	—	—
34	10½	York Resources	29	+2	—	—	—

Tins

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
25	14	Amal Nigeria 1p	17	......	j6.0	—	—
370	255	Ayer Hitam $M1	330	......	‡Q290c	0.9	‡
72	42	Beralt Tin	72	......	4.5	3.2	0.9
300	149½	Berjuntai $M1	263	−5	Q85c	ϕ	6.8
230	150	Geevor	155	......	8.4	1.9	7.7
12½	10	Gold & Base 12½p	12½	......	—	—	—
660	310	Gopeng Cons.	660	+10	†25.0	1.8	5.4
440	280	Hongkong	430	−5	‡35.87	ϕ	‡
132	90	Idris 10p	132	......	14.0	1.2	15.2
15	12½	Jantar 12½p	14	......	1.5	ϕ	15.3
115	64	Kamunting $M0.50	100xd	−3	Q80c	1.0	0.0
476	150	Killinghall $M1	476	+36	†hQ50c	ϕ	2.1
125	48½	Malay Dredging 10c	112	−3	mQ18½c	2.6	1.9
42	26	Pahang	39	......	0.44	8.3	1.6
112	83	Pengkalen 10p	112	......	6.0	1.3	7.7
335	230	Petaling $M1	330	−5	†Q150c	1.4	9.5
44	22	South Crofty 10p	24	......	1.0	ϕ	6.0
305	215	Sungei Besi $M1	255	......	Q480c	1.1	38.3
100	22½	Supreme Corp. $M1	100	......	hQ8c	—	1.6
125	90	Tanjong 15p	120	......	♦5.75	6.0	6.8
115	78	Tongkah H. Tin	107	......	Q45c	1.3	9.4
355	220	Tronoh $M1	325xd	−2	‡Q250c	0.7	‡

Copper

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
255	130	Messina R0.50	248	−2	mQ10c	ϕ	2.3

Miscellaneous

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
180	78½	Anglo-Dominion	142	......	—	—	—
97	52	Barymin	60	......	—	—	—
17	12	Burma Mines 10p	14	......	0.62	1.1	6.4
262	53	Colby Res. Corp.	248	+5	—	—	—
502	285	Cons. Murch. 10c.	360	−20	MQ100c	1.8	15.9
180	80	††Hemerdon 10c.	95	......	—	—	—
585	325	Northgate C$1	520	−10	—	—	—
*486	322	R.T.Z.	475xr	−5	t16.0	3.2	4.0
46	15	[illegible] Mines	40	+1	—	—	—
112	91	††SPO Minerals 10p	96	......	—	—	—
58	26	Sabina Inds. C$1	45	......	—	—	—
51	31	††SWCM 10p	40	......	—	—	—
650	411	Tara Expln. $1	625	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ● "Tap Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- †† Unlisted security.
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividends or forecasts.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♣ Not comparable.
- ♠ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ✠ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

§§ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock. a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. E Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1981. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980-81. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xR ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

Albany Inv. 20p	35	−1	Conv. 9% '80/82	£94	+⅛
Bertam	15	......	Nat. 9¾% 84/89	£82⅞	+½
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	455	+5	Fin. 13% 97/02	£98¾	+⅝
Craig & Rose £1	£11	......	Alliance Gas	50	......
Fife Forge	35	......	Arnott	210	......
Finlay Pkg. 5p	24	−1	Carroll (P.J.)	75	+2
Graig Ship. £1	£13	......	Clondalkin	116	......
Higsons Brew.	73	−4	Concrete Prods.	80	......
Holt (Jos) 25p	260	......	Helton (Hldgs.)	29	......
I.O.M. Stm. £1	152	......	Ins. Corp.	275	......
Pearce (C. H.)	465	......	Irish Ropes	42	......
Peel Mills	45	......	Jacob	32	+1
Sheff. Refrsmt	99	......	T.M.G.	69	+2
Sindall (Wm.)	141	......	Unidare	75	......

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials		I.C.I.	27	Utd. Drapery	6½
A. Brew	7	"Imps"	6½	Vickers	12
BOC Intl.	6	I.C.L.	14	Woolworths	5½
B.S.R.	4½	Inveresk	4		
Babcock	0	Ladbroke	15	**Property**	
Barclays Bank	34	Legal & Gen.	15	Brit. Land	7
Beecham	18	Lex Service	8	Cap. Counties	9
Blue Circle	25	Lloyds Bank	24	Land Secs.	24
Boots	16	"Lofs"	3½	MEPC	17
Bowaters	15	London Brick	6	Peachey	13
B.A.T.	20	Lucas Inds.	17	Samuel Props.	12
Brown (J.)	6	"Mams"	14	Town & City	2
Burton 'A'	10	Mrks. & Spncr	8		
Cadburys	5½	Midland Bank	26	**Oils**	
Courtaulds	8	N.E.I.	5	Brit. Petroleum	32
Debenhams	8	Nat. West. Bank	27	Burmah Oil	20
Distillers	17	P & O Dfd.	10	Charterhall	10
Dunlop	7½	Plessey	14	KCA	11
Eagle Star	15	Racal Elect.	22	Premier	13
F.N.F.C.	2¼	R.H.M.	4½	Shell	35
Gen. Accident	21	Rank Org.	15	Tricentrol	40
Gen. Electric	30	Reed Intnl.	16	Ultramar	35
Glaxo	18	Sears	5		
Grand Met.	12	Tesco	6	**Mines**	
G.U.S. 'A'	34	Thorn	23	Charter Cons.	14
Guardian	23	Trust Houses	12	Cons. Gold	40
G.K.N.	20	Tube Invest.	23	Lonrho	8
Hawker Sidd	15	Unilever	40	Rio T. Zinc	35
House of Fraser	15	U.D.T.	5½		

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 32

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Friday September 26 1980

Babcock chairman for British Airways

By Michael Donne, Aerospace Correspondent

SIR JOHN KING, chairman of Babcock International, the process engineering group, and of British Nuclear Associates, is to be the part-time chairman of British Airways from February 1. Sir John, who is also deputy chairman of the National Enterprise Board, will join the British Airways Board on December 1.

He will succeed Mr. Ross Stainton, who has spent all his working life with British Airways and its predecessors. Mr. Stainton who retires at the end of January.

Mr. A. H. Alexander Dibbs, a deputy chairman and director of the National Westminster Bank, and a member of the National Enterprise Board, will also join British Airways on December 1, becoming a part-time non-executive deputy chairman on February 1.

At that date, Mr. Roy Watts, currently chief executive, will be promoted to become additionally the executive deputy chairman of the airline.

Sir John King's background is primarily in the engineering industry. He is chairman or a director of a number of major engineering companies in both the UK and the U.S.

At British Airways, his primary task will be to help nurse the airline through the current difficulties created by the recession, which has hit the finances of all the world's airlines.

Depending on the way in which the airline comes through the recession, the Government is expected to sell off a substantial minority of the shares to private investors once the Civil Aviation Bill becomes law in the next parliamentary session.

No date for this change has yet been set, nor has the precise proportion of the shares to be sold off been settled.

But the change will clearly require a closer involvement between the airline and the City.

This probably explains why the Government has appointed a prominent banker to be the new part-time non-executive deputy chairman.

Cuts of up to 50 per cent in some internal air fares are to be made by British Airways from November 1. It is a move to boost traffic during the winter.

Profile and problems, Page 6

Government to put £400m more into British Steel

BY ELINOR GOODMAN AND ALAN PIKE

THE GOVERNMENT is today set to announce a further £400m cash injection to the financially-troubled British Steel Corporation to enable it to continue trading while decisions on its long-term future are finalised.

This additional aid to BSC—which may prove to be only the first instalment of a larger sum—will give more time for Mr. Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, and Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, to consider plans for cutting the industry's losses. Mr. MacGregor is anxious to defer decisions on the future capacity needs of BSC until the end of the year, when he hopes to have a clearer view of the likely steel market after the recession.

The Government's announcement will make it clear that the extra money is no more than an interim settlement to tide BSC over until Ministers have been able to consider the longer-term position. But it comes at a time when Ministers are increasingly worried that the recession may make it extremely difficult for several other nationalised industries to achieve the improvements envisaged in the Government's public expenditure White Paper.

It became certain in June that BSC would fail to remain within its £450m cash limit for the current financial year. Sir Keith at that stage told the corporation to continue trading—an action which amounted to his acceptance that he would have to make additional funds available. The corporation calculated in June that it would require an extra £400m but this was—and remains—a rough estimate which may have to be amended.

BSC's position has grown more difficult since the early summer, with the recession biting still more deeply into its weak market. It is probable that its losses in the current financial year will be at least as great as last year's record £545m, when the figures were worsened by the three-month national steel strike.

While the decision to grant more money to BSC was expected, ministers are uncomfortably aware that it may be seen as a further erosion of their industrial strategy, though some welcome it as a sign of healthy flexibility.

The Government has already had to agree to an easing of British Rail's cash limit and Sir Keith has announced that he is under pressure to take the same action towards British Shipbuilders. On top of this, there is speculation at Westminster that other nationalised concerns may argue later in the year that the recession makes it impossible for them to meet their targets this year.

Feature, Page 18
Private Capital idea for ordnance factories, Page 9

NEB faces biggest loss

BY HAZEL DUFFY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE NATIONAL Enterprise Board will be left with a substantial loss on Alfred Herbert, the wholly-owned subsidiary which effectively collapsed three months ago.

The failure of the machine tool company is the biggest to be suffered by the State organisation since it was set up.

Shareholders were given notice yesterday of an extraordinary general meeting on October 17 at the company's Coventry head office at which they will be asked to support a voluntary winding up proposal. The shareholders, which include the NEB and a few private holders of the preference share capital, will be asked to appoint Mr. Richard Agutter and Mr. Guy Parsons, of Peat Marwick Mitchell, as joint liquidators.

All the major plants of the Alfred Herbert group have been sold under an assets disposal programme started earlier this year by Mr. Peter Rippon, the Herbert chairman. The programme has enabled some 3,400 jobs to be preserved. By contrast, the NEB believes, if it had forced the group into liquidation earlier this year up to 4,200 jobs could have been jeopardised.

In the five years since Herbert was rescued by the State, it has received £43m in public money, £18m of which was to pay off pre-nationalisation debts.

Some of this money has since been paid back, but at this stage it is apparently impossible to estimate what the final shortfall will be. Although the NEB expects to receive some money from the liquidation, this will be offset by payments to creditors.

Herbert's bank overdrafts at December 31 1979 stood at £8.98m. Shortly after this, senior executives of Herbert launched a last attempt to save the group by instituting the sale of all assets which were peripheral to the manufacture of advanced technology machine tools.

The deteriorating climate for industry, and its effects on capital investment, led to the failure of this plan. The NEB had already made it clear that it was not prepared to inject any more money into Herbert, so the group was left to carry out an orderly disposal.

In order to allow the Alfred Herbert name to continue being used by Tooling Investments, which has bought the Edgwick plant, the name of the group will have to be changed to Jooper Engineering before the voluntary winding up. The parts of the group which have not yet been sold include several overseas companies, which are all independent companies.

Industry Act annual report, Page 9

Coral chief to receive £300,000 handshake

By Andrew Fisher

MR. NICHOLAS CORAL will receive a record golden handshake of £300,000 when he steps down as chairman of Coral Leisure Group on completion of the £83m bid by the Grand Metropolitan hotels and brewing group.

The figure was contained in the formal offer document which was sent to shareholders yesterday. This was accompanied by a letter from Mr. Maxwell Joseph, Grand Met's chairman, stating that his own company's performance in the second half would not match progress in the first six months.

The payment, on which Coral shareholders will vote at a special meeting next month under the terms of the Companies Act, far exceeds other recent payments to retiring directors in the leisure and entertainment industry.

Sir Fred Pontin was paid £200,000 after retiring from Coral's board in 1979 after the group had bought the holiday camp business which he had built up.

The same amount was paid to Mr. Eric Morley when he left Grand Met's own Mecca betting and entertainment company after a boardroom disagreement. Five years ago, Mr. Graham Dowson was paid £150,000 following a policy row which led to his departure as chief executive of Rank Organisation.

The basis of the compensation calculation was not disclosed in the document. "It is a basis I put to them which they found satisfactory," Mr. Coral said last night.

"I was not personally in any hurry. But it was felt better to agree a figure between myself and Grand Met. "It is not a record I wish to figure in, to be quite honest, but there you are."

Service contract

The document said other Coral directors were also likely to retire in due course "with such compensation payments as may be agreed at that time."

Mr. Coral's annual salary is just over £42,000. His service contract ran out at the end of 1983. Other directors, paid a total of £180,000, also have service contracts subject to compensation payments.

In his letter to shareholders, Mr. Joseph said the first half of Grand Met's financial year to September 30 had been affected by the economic problems of the UK, the strong pound and high interest rates. These had continued into the second half, which had also been affected by poor summer and further weakening in demand.

Grand Met lifted pre-tax profits from £51m to £61m in the first half. He said group businesses were developing satisfactorily in spite of the problems, with a higher final dividend of 3.75p, against 3.25p, to be recommended.

Coral, however, would probably have been unable to maintain its dividend, Mr. Coral said in the document. Profits fell sharply in the first half of the year and the company has just lost three of its London casino licences.

Polish strikes cost further £347m

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI AND ANTHONY ROBINSON IN WARSAW

POLAND has lost a further Zl 25bn (£347m) through strikes and other stoppages this month on top of the Zl 36bn (£500m) lost during the strikes which paralysed much of the country's trade and industry in August.

The figures were revealed yesterday in the Communist party newspaper Trybuna Ludu by Mr. Aleksander Kopec, Deputy Premier in charge of industry and mining.

He also said that 2.8m tonnes of coal output had been lost since the beginning of the strikes, as well as 135,000 tonnes of steel, 27,000 tonnes of fertilisers, 1,465 tractors and 14,000 washing machines.

Mr. Kopec added his voice to the growing number of appeals to workers to increase productivity and make more efficient use of plant and equipment.

The official agreements which ended most strikes on August 31 provide for higher wages, reduced working hours and other benefits, which will inject between Zl 40bn to Zl 50bn of additional purchasing power into the economy this year and around Zl 110bn in 1981.

Mr. Lech Walesa, leader of the independent trade union movement, said in Warsaw at his first officially sponsored Press conference that workers would concentrate on raising productivity when the proper framework of co-operation was agreed. Otherwise, he warned, there could be further strikes.

Much of the steam behind workers' protests has been generated by grassroots awareness of how inefficiently, and sometimes corruptly, expensive coal and imported plant have been used so far.

This has been a factor in the current drive against corruption in high places. The latest victim is Mr. Kaimierz Tyranski, former head of Minex, the foreign trade oragnisation dealing in construction materials. He is accused of taking well over $1m (£416m) in bribes from Western companies, including $460,000 from an Austrian company, $250,000 from Sweden, and DM 473,000 from West Germany. Most of the money is alleged to have been channelled into bank accounts abroad.

The stage is also being set for a purge of inefficient party and management cadres. Major changes are expected in both the top-level Poliburo and the party central committee, following a special central committee plenum expected shortly.

Meanwhile, the authorities have arrested Mr. Leszek Moszulski, one of the most controversial figures of the Polish dissident movement.

Pravda attack, Page 2

IBA warning for Westward TV

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

WESTWARD TELEVISION has been given a clear warning that its West Country commercial television franchise is in immediate jeopardy. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has asked for assurances concerning the future of the station and demanded answers by October 9.

Westward has been torn by an internal argument which has spilled over into the courts. It has been told that it is not only the renewal of its contract which is at risk, but also the remaining 15 months of its present franchise.

A key paragraph in a sharp letter to Westward last night says: "In view of the contractual position, the Authority assumes that Westward Television will wish to consider its plans for the immediate future: these will have to take account of the conditions which the Authority would wish the company to comply with if the possibility of the Authority moving to determine the existing contract were to be removed."

The time has come, says the IBA, when it must consider whether Westward, or the people running it or who seem likely to run it, present such changes as to require the Authority to look again at the franchise.

IBA powers in these circumstances are total. It can in effect choose its own Board for Westward. It can remove the contract completely—there are two ready-made rivals eager to take over—or it can hand the area over to a neighbouring contractor, Southern or HTV on a temporary basis.

At the moment Mr. Peter Cadbury, founder and largest single shareholder in Westward, looks set to confirm his removal of most of the present board at a second extraordinary shareholders meeting on October 17 and place himself back in the chair he lost earlier in the year.

The Authority says any changes at Board and principal executives level "must inevitably have wider repercussions among the management and other staff of the company which could affect the service being provided by Westward Television under the programme contract with the authority."

It has therefore asked Westward to say with some speed what the position is or might be.

Continued from Page 1

Offshore

amount to be spent on the UK Continental Shelf.

"The point which I want to make as strongly as possible is that this potential represents a truly great challenge to our national industry to invest and develop, to become internationally competitive and to ensure that the lion's share of the associated business is British." He called on the Government to foster an environment "in which industry will rise to this challenge."

The latest Government figures show that last year UK companies gained 79 per cent of the £2.7bn worth of orders placed for offshore goods and services. The performance of UK industry was in sharp contrast to the early 1970s when domestic companies were winning only a quarter to a third of the contracts.

Mr. Raisman said it needed little imagination to realise the potential importance of future offshore investments on the industrial infrastructure of Britain. "We are going to need platforms, modules, power generators, pipelines, cement, chemicals, food, ships, helicopters, support services, communication systems but, perhaps most important of all, we are going to need people." Among those needed would be people to lay pipelines, and to run radio communication systems as well as pilots, seamen, cooks, reservoir engineers, crane drivers, clerks, economists, managers and deep sea divers.

Mr. Raisman was optimistic about the potential of the UK to meet its oil needs, in net terms, over the next 20 years. Oil demand this year was likely to be 85m tonnes (1.8m barrels a day) against 95m tonnes last year. During the 1980s the annual demand should range from about 80m tonnes to 95m tonnes. By the end of the century UK oil consumption could be as high as 100m tonnes a year or as low as 70m tonnes.

The oil industry thought that total recoverable oil reserves on the UK Continental Shelf were about 25bn barrels, some 20bn barrels of which was in the North Sea. Of this 20bn barrels in the North Sea, some 16bn barrels had been discovered with nearly 12bn barrels lying in fields in production or under development.

Continued from Page 1

Tehran experiences the fear of war

were few in number and travelled without headlights. In the silence it seemed as if the packs of dogs which roam the city had taken it over to bowl all night at the moon.

On Thursday morning there was an early rush to the shops for those who are sceptical of the Government's declaration that there will be no food shortages. While the panic buying has been on a limited scale, items such as rice, flour, bread, eggs, tinned foods and cooking oil are in demand.

One woman struggling out of a major supermarket with a bag full of long-life milk, exclaimed: "It's all that's left." It was not true but that did not stop a number of people rushing in to check.

The private motorist has been quickly affected. After saying at the beginning of the week there would be no shortage of petrol, the Interior Ministry yesterday announced that no petrol, kerosene or gas oil would be sold to private customers for two days because "of the attack on the Abadan refinery."

It seems likely that on Saturday, when normal sales are due to resume, a rationing system will be introduced. The Interior Ministry says it is printing ration cards allowing for only 25 litres of petrol for use for private cars for the indefinite future.

Yesterday the streets were almost empty of private cars—"God's blessing in the midst of war," one traffic policeman said. Only the garage forecourts remained jammed as ever-hopeful motorists thought up reasons that they believed might persuade the pump attendants to sell them petrol. None seemed to be having any luck.

Weather

UK TODAY

MOSTLY dry, becoming cloudy later. Some outbreaks of rain. Near normal temperatures.

S.E. England
Dry. Some sunshine after early fog patches. Becoming cloudy during the day.

West and North England, Wales
Outbreaks of rain. Coastal fog patches, and some hill fog.

Scotland, Ulster
Windy. Rain giving way to showers in the west. Becoming drier later in the east.

Outlook: Changeable. Showers and sunny intervals. Temperatures near normal in the south; windy and rather cold in the north.

WORLDWIDE

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Amsdm.	F	17	63	Jo'burg	C	12	54
Athens	S	27	81	L. Plms.	S	25	77
Bahrain	S	32	90	Lisbon	S	26	79
Barclna.	S	25	77	London	S	19	66
Belfast	C	15	59	Luxmbg.	C	15	59
Belgrd.	C	21	70	Madrid	F	27	81
Berlin	C	18	51	Majorca	S	27	81
Biarritz	S	22	72	Malaga	F	26	79
Bmghm.	F	16	61	Malta	S	29	84
Blackp'l	S	17	63	Mchstr.	S	16	51
Bordx	S	25	77	Melbne.	S	17	63
Bristol	S	17	63	M'ntreal	C	6	43
Brussels	F	18	51	Moscow	C	8	46
Cairo	S	31	88	Munich	F	17	63
Cardiff	S	16	61	Naples	F	26	75
Cape T.	S	21	70	Nwcstl	F	15	61
Cologne	F	17	63	N. York	C	16	61
Cpnhgn.	F	15	59	Nice	S	25	77
Dublin	F	16	61	Oslo	S	17	63
Ednbgh.	S	16	61	Paris	F	18	64
Florence	S	27	81	Perth	S	19	66
Geneva	F	19	66	Rome	S	26	79
Gibrltr.	C	23	73	Singapr.	C	31	88
Glasgow	F	15	59	Stckhm.	R	14	57
G'nsey	F	16	61	Sydney	S	33	91
H. Kong	C	27	81	Tokyo	R	18	64
Innsbr'k	S	22	72	Venice	S	25	77
Invrnss.	F	15	59	Vienna	F	19	66
Jersey	C	17	63				

C—Clou[illegible]

THE LEX COLUMN

A bumpy ride for Vickers

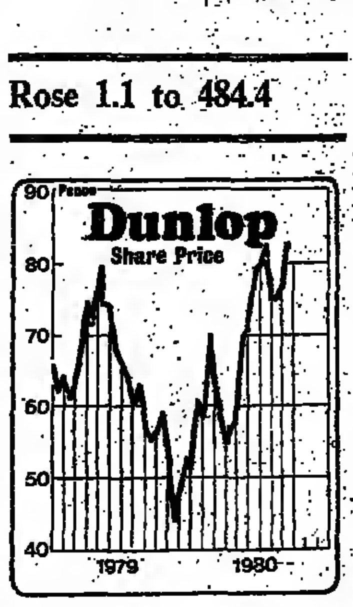
Half year figures from Vickers and its new subsidiary, Rolls-Royce Motors, confirm that shareholders in the enlarged group are going to need patience. Before finance costs, Vickers' profits are 7 per cent lower, but the group has transformed the pre-tax picture by crediting £8.2m of interest receipts which came in with the final aerospace settlement, all of which relates to prior years. As a result, its reported pre-tax figures are up from £6.4m to £12.6m.

The trading picture should look rather better over the rest of the year. The loss-making office equipment business has been sold, Australia is recovering, and the lithographic plates side is doing well. Pre-interest profits could rise by about a tenth during 1980, and the financing burden will be eased by the proceeds of the office equipment sale and the latest chunk of nationalisation receipts. So the pre-tax total for the original Vickers group could be roughly £16m or £17m.

Meanwhile Rolls-Royce is still forecasting higher profits for the year, although its interim figures have slumped from £4.6m to £1.2m pre-tax. The expected upturn is based on the receipt of unspecified compensation from the Government for cancellation of the Iranian tank engine contract, together with a better trend in U.S. motor sales and the introduction of Rolls' new model. This makes its debut next week, and is of vital importance to the group's long term future.

Taken together, annual profits for the combined group could be running at something like £25m pre-tax, a figure which includes well over £3m of prior year items, and compares with a dividend cost of about £9m on the forecast. The group's average borrowings should be lower next year. But the workload for the engineering side is getting shorter, particularly on the defence side. The group is a long way from making an adequate return on its shareholders' funds of around £220m and borrowings of something like £115m; and the main support for the shares at 133p remains a forecast yield of 13½ per cent.

Rose 1.1 to 484.4



Tootal

Tootal is passing through the eye of the storm. Profits in the first half of 1980, a period which saw the peak of customer destocking in the UK, have fallen from £6.4m to £2.0m, and the attributable loss on a current cost basis is more than £5m. Yet the company remains quietly confident that the present cutbacks in capacity and withdrawals from unprofitable sectors will see it through, although it warns that there may be no significant upturn until late next year.

Overseas profits are up, despite a weak performance in the U.S.—where the retailing business is still in the red—and consequently in the Philippine thread interests. The UK side should soon see some benefits from the closures—if only in the form of loss elimination—and there are mildly encouraging signs of demand for next year's fashions.

But the really good news is on the balance sheet, where by reducing working capital Tootal has actually cut borrowings in the first half despite closure costs, and on the dividend. This has been maintained purely out of faith that the recent surgery will be effective.

Tootal's share price has suffered from the long shadow of Carrington Viyella—unfairly, considering that it is well ahead of Carrington in slimming its home base down to a profitable core, and has a number of strong overseas businesses. At 26½p, where the yield on a maintained dividend is 17.7 per cent, the shares are more than adequately discounting the group's problems.

Dunlop

Dunlop's pre-tax profit is down from £18m to £15m in the first half of 1980, when the weakness of the British tyre market more than offset the absence of strikes and an improved performance in some overseas businesses. After adjusting for the move of Pirelli Ltd. and the French Dunlop company to associate status, finance charges are up from £16m to £25m. Most of the increase reflects higher interest rates; Dunlop is naturally squeezing cash hard, and it hopes to hold the rise in borrowings this year below £30m, a trickle by past standards.

At the attributable level, as usual, there are no earnings left, and the current cost accounts show a loss rising from £9m to £16m. Until the UK tyre side improves, Dunlop will languish—capacity reductions in the industry should work through to margins once the present very large stocks of surplus tyres have been shifted, but imports will remain a serious problem so long as sterling is strong.

Under these circumstances, Dunlop's recovery is inevitably postponed further, and pre-tax profits for the year may show their fourth successive decline, perhaps to £28m or so (against £29m). But despite the cumulative evidence of profit and loss accounts, Dunlop clearly feels it must slog on, and pay an unchanged dividend. The dividend—which costs £10m with ACT—looks more inviolable than ever now that mysterious Malaysians are prowling around Fort Dunlop. It is thanks to their buying that the shares stand at 82p, up 3p yesterday, where the yield is 9½ per cent. Without them, a price of 50p and a yield of 15 per cent might be a realistic trading level, and there is probably more space below the share price than above it.

Wimpey

Thanks in part to better weather conditions, Wimpey's half-year profits are up from £8.4m to £9.4m pre-tax, and the outlook for the year is said to be satisfactory. Thereafter, things could get a lot more difficult. Housebuilding remains about the most important source of profits in the UK, and the group's private sector sales this year could drop from 11,500 to roughly 9,000. The full impact on profits will be felt in 1981, which will also suffer from the squeeze on other UK construction activities. Work is not so hard to get overseas, but this accounts for no more than about a third of turnover.

So unless interest rates come down with a bump, Wimpey could be heading for a setback next year. This makes it all the more important that it should start to give adequate information about its property investments, on which is has been spending heavily. Without a proper valuation, the shares at 89p have to rely on a prospective yield of perhaps 4 per cent—and stockbrokers' speculation.

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